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THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

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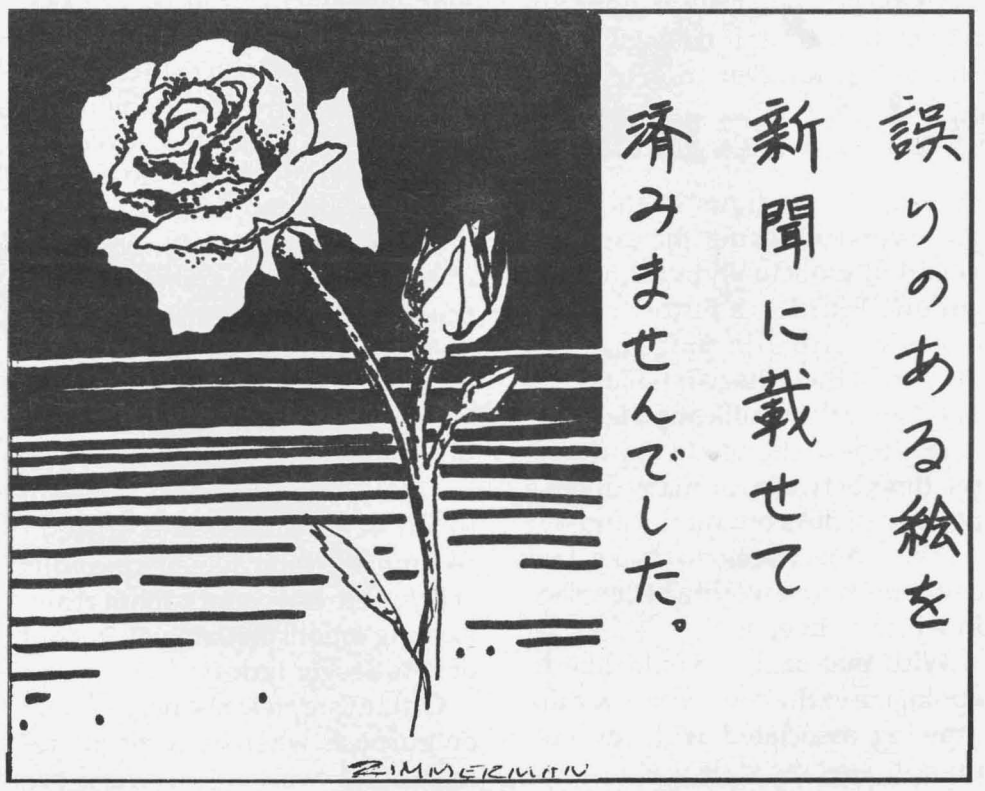
WORKS IN PROGRESS

"This is to assuage our conscience, darling," she would explain to Blanca. "But it doesn't help the poor. They don't need charity; they need justice." Isabel Allende from *The House of the Spirits*

Free

W.I.P. Cartoon Draws Fire



In our last issue, WIP blundered in publishing a graphic that denigrated Japanese culture. On page 12, Zachary Lyons' article regarding the boycott of Mitsubishi Corporation contains the illustration showing a caricature of a grimacing samurai warrior cutting a tree down with a sword. In immediate response, Dennis Ginoza of Olympia sent a letter requesting an apology. (Please see Ginoza, lower right front page.)

The Thurston County Rainbow Coalition organized a meeting within a week of receiving Mr. Ginoza's letter and during a two-hour process, his statements were discussed. The result is this apology. Though some did not believe the graphic to be racist, the large majority of those in attendance considered it to be very offensive and agreed with Mr. Ginoza's letter. It was also decided that responsibility for this offense would be mutually shared.

APOLOGY

Dear Mr. Ginoza, people of Japanese heritage and all other members of the community:

We apologize to you for publishing in the November issue of *Works In Progress* an illustration depicting the Mitsubishi Corporation with a caricature of a samurai warrior. Our ignorance was inexcusable and we are sorry. We pledge to better educate ourselves on the methods and purposes of racism and vow to discuss how ideas, whether or not we agree with them, are responsibly and sensitively presented in the paper.

It is also important to us that we thank you, Mr. Ginoza for writing to WIP and forcing the review and the discussion that brought us to this apology. In Margo Adair's Working Inside Out: Tools for Change, she states "We learn through social practice. ...and because we've all been socialized by various systems of oppression it is always necessary to use criticism to correct and learn from mistaken attitudes and actions." ..."We must begin to give each other feedback, criticizing what we notice in one another that we think has become detrimental to our common interests."

The act of apology, an acknowledgment and expression of regret for injury or insult given, has taken on a new meaning as well. In the past for many of us, it has meant surrender, loss and vulnerability, but we have now learned that it can actually be a graceful and loving way of asking for forgiveness.

Your thoughts and views are, and will continue to be, very important to us.

For Zachary Lyons' response to the illustration used for his article in last month's issue, please turn to the Letters Page (page 2).

The act of apology, an acknowledgment and expression of regret for injury or insult given, has taken on a new meaning as well.

Ginoza's Letter Of Outrage

Dear W. I . P . Editors,

This letter concerns your Volume 2, Number 6 issue. Specifically, it addresses the editorial cartoon on the back page dealing with the Mitsubishi boycott.

I was quite surprised when, upon turning to an article I thought would be informative, I found a horrendously racist caricature staring straight at me.

As an Asian-American of Japanese descent, I was outraged that you and your staff would allow such an image of pure hate to disgrace what is otherwise a terrific paper. In the cartoon, drawn by "Cat and Mat, " a samurai is presented as the personification of Japanese evil and aggression. Wielding a sword, it leers at the reader while chopping away at a tree (I refer to the "samurai" as "it" in acknowledgment of the racist objectification you have condoned) .

Let me point out a few facts in an attempt to enlighten you and your staff. Firstly, Japanese culture, as have all cultures not originating in Europe, has been systematically crushed in this nation. In choosing to caricature an integral part of Japanese culture, you debase yourself and contribute to the growing racist attacks upon my people. You now bear the responsibility of contributing to the cause of various fascist groups in the U.S. If what I am saying is still not clear, let me restate my position: With this cartoon, you ally yourself with the KKK, skinheads, and extreme right .

Secondly, while I am not defending Mitsubishi's environmental abuses, I wonder why your paper finds the Japanese such an easy target to attack . For instance, while you attack various white individuals, you never resort to attacking white culture as a whole. Yet you find it convenient, even righteous, to condemn the Japanese culture. In so doing, you condemn the Japanese people as well. This certainly does not reflect the "solidarity" you so often advocate .

In closing, I have this to say: If you are truly interested in creating an egalitarian society, you must stop advancing the cause of hate. You can do so by offering a public apology on the front page of your next issue. If you choose not to, everyone will see the hypocrisy that seems to permeate your organization.

Sincerely,
Ginoza, Dennis Yatako

I was outraged that you and your staff would allow such an image of pure hate to disgrace what is otherwise a terrific paper.

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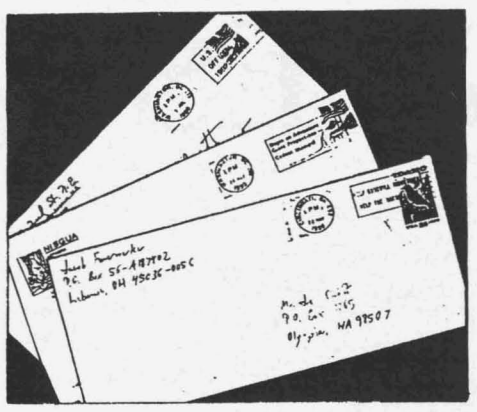

Zach's Grand Stand

To the editors of *WIP* and the community it serves,

It was with a sense of dismay that I discovered the racist drawing that was chosen by the editorial staff of *Works In Progress* to accompany the November, 1991 issue of my column The Boycott Monthly. It was irrelevant to my column that the company my column dealt with is Japanese, and therefore the portrayal of a traditional Japanese figure, a Samurai warrior, chopping at a tree with his sword in this contest can be viewed as racist.

Several factors make this incident particularly disturbing to me. First is the implication of my approval of such an offensive statement by placing the drawing within my column - without my knowledge. Second is the apparent feeling by those who chose to use the drawing in this context that it was necessary to draw attention to the fact that Mitsubishi is a Japanese company, as if that had some inherent impact on the company's decision to destroy rainforest. Third is the choice by those responsible for the drawing of using a very traditional Japanese image, which suggested to me that the artists' and editors' intent was to go beyond indicting the Japanese generically to actually indicting their culture. Fourth is a history of such offensive errors in judgement on the part of the editorial staff of *Work In Progress* in a publication I understood to be dedicated to improving relations between the many diverse peoples of our community and our world while trying to make that community and world a better place in which to live.

With that said, I would like to apologize to the community for the drawing associated with my column. It was racist. It was insensitive. At a time when our nation focuses with outrage on the historic acts and philosophies of former KKK leader David Duke as he runs for Governor of Louisiana, let us not forget our nations' wrongful imprisonment of thousands of U.S. citizens in the 1940's merely because they were Japanese.

Sincerely, Zachary D. Lyons

Editors' Note: We would be interested in discussing with you the other offensive errors that you mention above.

Bob Black Talks Back

Dear Editors,

So far as I can tell, my "No Future for the Workplace" polemic (Oct. 1991) is maligned in passing by Paul Ortiz (Nov. 1991) only as a pretext for his promotion of trade-unionism. But since he dragged my name into the issue I'd appreciate an opportunity to address it. I too enjoy a rich fantasy life, however, I don't confuse it with the real.

I did not say that "workers have forgotten" union history (although most maybe never knew it in the first place), I said they reject its example. The more you know about the real history and function of unions, usually the less you want to do with them, unless you have organizational aspirations like Ortiz. Unions are brokers of labor power. Thus they are inherently pro-work and inherently at odds with workers. And they are inherently capitalist, as they are in sales themselves.

Two successful (and, fashionably, multi-cultural) strikes in a year for Ortiz add up to "the rebirth of the labor movement." That's laughable on its face. The dwindling fraction of unionized workers are concentrated in the declining industrial and agricultural sectors (like the cannery and farm workers Ortiz lauds). The current level of 15% or so can only decline, the tertiary sector (except government) is all but union-free. To Ortiz and others, I recommend John Zerzan's *Elements of Refusal* to learn more about really existing unionism than you get out of Pete Seeger lyrics.

Ortiz misrepresents me, probably on purpose, when he turns my remark that workers at work are "passive aggressive" to their dismissal as passive, period. I don't waste words. The revolt against work is "aggressive" albeit unorganized. It may be individual or more or less collective, e.g., the wildcat strikes at Dodge (Detroit) and Lordstown (Ohio) in the 70's which the VAW helped the companies and the courts to suppress. Whoever Ortiz is gibbering against when he prattles about "new age individualism" it isn't me or any tendency I defend, I am far more "collectivist" than he is, as my book *The Abolition of Work and Other Essays* takes so obvious even a leftist can figure it out.

"We can go back to work with our heads up," Ortiz quotes a cannery worker who is quite possibly apocryphal. But you can't work with your heads up once you return there. Let's all leave and never go back. I have no doubt Paul Ortiz has his head up. But up what?

Sincerely,
Bob Black
(PO Box 66153, Albany, NY 12206)

Oops!!

Dear WIP,

Oops! "WIP" has unintentionally offended some readers by carrying the "Samurai" cartoon on the back page of November's issue. I can understand why a Japanese-American could take exception to this caricature. The idea was to symbolize a Japanese equivalent of Uncle Sam. The Mitsubishi corporate symbol should have been more prominent, and the ethnic essence should have been lessened. Perhaps a bulldozer or chain saw with the word "Mitsubishi" or corporate symbol, wreaking ecologic havoc would have been more appropriate.

I think we can agree that Mitsubishi is guilty of the ongoing destruction of the rainforests of tropical Asia, along with the many unique and precious species inhabiting them. But the Japanese people are no more to blame for this than the American people are to be blamed for the destruction of the rainforests of the Amazon - or the Pacific Northwest. It is no big secret that capitalism is the culprit. When big business goes international in scope, whether to exploit natural resources, real estate, cheaper labor, foreign markets, or whatever, its called Imperialism. Multi-national corporations, such as Mitsubishi, Krupp Arms, or General Electric, are the primary agents of Imperialism in the 1990's. Not tied to any particular nation, and with a battery of formidable legal talent to do their battles, they can shift operations from one country to another, following the scent of profit. In Biosphere Politics, Jeremy Rifkin says: "Because their very purpose is to maximize resource use, the multinationals invariably place profit above the environment. Unlike the nation-state, they can simply pillage an eco-system and flee, making them potentially far more dangerous [than the nation-state] in the years ahead."

In one sense, the Japanese - and American - people can be blamed: We should have overthrown capitalism years ago.

Remember: *Works in Progress* is your paper, and you are needed! You can help by contributing letters, articles, cartoons, labor, or financial support. By taking a more active role, you can help *WIP* avoid future goofs like this. Until the multinational corporations are converted, by working-people, into more earth-friendly cooperative formations, Imperialism is bound to remain an issue. We need a quickly-recognizable, non-offensive symbol to portray Japanese Imperialism: an equivalent of the Uncle Sam icon. How do liberal and socialist papers in Japan symbolize Mitsubishi specifically and Imperialism in general? Do you know? Let us know!

Dave Zink

MITSUBISHI PICKET CONTINUES

The Olympia Rainforest Action Group is once again planning to picket outside of Olympia's primary Mitsubishi dealer. This demonstration is part of a coordinated international boycott of the Mitsubishi Corporation called for by the Rainforest Action Network. The boycott is intended to draw attention to Mitsubishi's excessive environmental destruction of the world's tropical rainforests, particularly those of the state of Sarawack in Borneo, Malaysia where round the clock logging operations threaten the continued existence of several tribes of indigenous forest dwellers.

This boycott is a last ditch effort to help save the indigenous people and follows years of unsuccessful letter writing to both Mitsubishi and the governmet of Sarawack. The picket will take place on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. outside Hanson Mitsubishi at 2300 Carriage Loop, S.W. Olympia in the Capital Auto Mall. A planning meeting will be held on Wednesday Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. in room 3220 of the Library building at TESC. Please help us help these people by coming to the meeting and participating with the picket and boycott.

WIP needs you.

Works In Progress is meant to be a community newspaper. We are here to provide the community with an opportunity to dialogue about issues. We need your thoughts and input. Here are some issues we would like articles on. Please feel free to write about any topic that is important to you. We've published almost everything we've received.

Suggested topic include:

Education, N.O.W. as a third party, Political correctness, Multiculturalism in Thurston Co., Regional isms, Art revival in Olympia, Growth management, Transportation, Book reviews.....

Pick-up some papers. Pass them out. Give them out. Or just set them where they might get perused. Come and get em: 25 - 250. We would love some help delivering. To grab a stack call Chris or Pat at 956-9123.

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Future Voter

Dear Editor,

Today I went to vote with my mom. I want to vote when I grow up. I just hope that when I grow up our candidates don't waste money saying bad things about each other on TV and radio. I can see how it confuses the voters and the issues.

Thank You!

Rikki Franklin, 9 years old.

Initiative 120 Passes After Cliff-hanger Close Vote

Tom Freeman

The next time that someone tells you that voting doesn't matter, simply point out the final unofficial results of Initiative 120 - the infamous pro-choice measure that puts Roe vs. Wade into Washington statute. Out of 1,508,794 votes, 756,554 people voted yes (50.14%) - 752,240 people voted no (49.86%). The vote difference is a scant 4,314 votes statewide. The difference, which is less than 1/2 of 1 per cent requires an automatic recount of every ballot cast as mandated by statute. Election officials expect that the recount will result in no more than a few hundred votes changing in either direction. Based on this information, Initiative 120 is virtually guaranteed passage certification by the Secretary of State once the recount is completed.

The real news, however, is the turn around in the vote totals. Conventional wisdom states that absentee ballots tend to be conservative and with the anti-choice forces out ahead at the end of election night, one could easily conclude that 120 had been defeated and that, for the first time since 1970, Washington voters failed to support a pro-choice measure.

"The trends from election night would have seemed to indicate that it [120] would have failed," said Gary McIntosh, Elections Supervisor in the Secretary of State's office. "The most surprising thing is that statewide there was a higher yes vote [after absentees were counted] than experienced election night."

According to McIntosh, a percentage point was added onto every county in the yes vote after election night by absentee ballots. In Thurston County, election night yes votes were 54.5%. After absentees were added, the yes percentage increased to 55.8% Even more startling was the count in staunchly conservative Lewis County. Election night totals showed 33.5% yes votes for 120. After the absentees were counted, that percentage increased by over six percentage points to 39.07. So what's the explanation?

"There are a lot of different theories," says McIntosh. One theory is that the "election day vote was primarily a vote emphasized by the churches but maybe they didn't work the absentees as much. In that case the absentees would be more indicative of the general population. [Another possibility is that] absentee voters may have been studying the voter pamphlet more and were un-influenced by television commercials. Conventional wisdom is that this thing should have passed by about a 60% measure. Both the opponents and proponents would agree that it was surprising that it was close as it was."

"I think that 120 did a good enough job through it's outreach and media campaign to convince enough people to support the measure," says Mary Clogston who is with the Thurston County National Organization for Women and a 120 supporter. "Also, by choosing the tax issue, the opponents of 120 left themselves vulnerable to charges of distortion and outright inflammatory tactics. It put their credibility into question." Clogston also added that absentee ballots were consciously encouraged by the 120 campaign, which would account for the increase in pro 120 votes.

One explanation for the closeness is the ballot title which stated, "Shall State Abortion Laws Be Revised, Including Declaring a Woman's Right to Choose Physician Performed Abortion Prior to Fetal Viability?" For many pro-choice voters, the ballot title was unclear or downright confusing. For instance, it does not define how state abortion laws are to be "revised," or that a woman's right to choose would be strengthened by the initiative. Ironically, some activists believe that if an anti-choice initiative had been on the ballot, the same question could have been asked with opposite intent and results. The ballot title was written by Ed Mackie from the Attorney General's office.

". . . by choosing the tax issue, the opponents of 120 left themselves vulnerable to charges of distortion and outright inflammatory tactics. It put their credibility into question." [Clogston]

"The ballot title was a huge problem from the get-go," says Clogston. "Through polling with pro-choice voters, the 120 campaign established that 6 out of 10 pro-choice voters would vote 'no' based on the ballot title alone. This is because pro-choice voters in the state are so use to having abortion laws challenged that they just read the ballot title and thought that it was another restriction against freedom of choice."

"We get some comments on almost all the ballot titles," says McIntosh. It is a very difficult job to take a complex subject matter and then produce a 20 word title understood by everybody."

Clogston indicated that Washington state is clearly pro-choice as evidenced by polls showing 70% support of a woman's right to choose. However, within that pro-choice majority there is a spectrum of support and the anti-choice forces were able to exploit doubts that people have about parental consent, residency, and spousal consent and use that to confuse the electorate."

Some political pundits, along with opponents of Initiative 120, have been suggesting that the close vote calls into question Washington's dependability as a pro-choice state. Opponents of 120 are calling the close vote a victory for "pro-life" forces.

"I don't feel that the election result in any way indicates that Washington is not a pro-choice state", says Diana Larsen-Mills, who is the Thurston County Yes on 120 Coordinator, ["a volunteer position and a labor of love."] "The election result indicates that the lies and the distortion worked with some people and it caused confusion. The state campaign has had people calling and saying 'oh my god, I voted the wrong way.' The ads the anti's were running said 'why do we need this when we already have an abortion law' implying that they support the 1970 law, when there is no way that those groups opposing the initiative support that earlier law."

Does the close vote mean that anti-choice forces will be more troublesome in the future? "Being a many year pro-choice activist, I can tell you that we need to always be vigilant," says Larsen-Mills. "Those who oppose the right to choose will always look for opportunities to erode that choice."

On the charges that the initiative was an act of political extremism, Larsen-Mills stated: "120 will put the standard that was established by the 1973 Supreme Court decision, Roe Vs. Wade into Washington State law. All we were doing was to put it into the Washington statutes, since there is a widely held belief that the decision will be overturned by the current makeup of the [conservative] Supreme Court."

With the election over, pro-choice voters can look back at November 5, 1991 as the day in which the people, bypassing a largely ineffective state legislature, took the process into their own hands and guaranteed a woman's right to choose access to a safe, legal abortion.

Next month: The Catholic Church, tax-exemption and politicking.

Tom Freeman is staunchly pro-choice and loves to tell people his experience of joining the National Organization for Women in 1977 at the ripe young age of 18 after running into their booth at the Minnesota State Fair. Tom Freeman is Co-Coordinator of the TCRC.

BOYCOTT LEVI STRAUSS & CO.

Anna Bachmann

FUERZA UNIDA is an organization of garment workers, mostly Mexican American women, who joined together in January 1990 to protest the closing of the Levi Company plant in San Antonio which left 1,150 workers without jobs. The plant was moved to Costa Rica where wages are $3.00 a day without benefits.

During the last two years of its operation in Texas, Levi's made record profits. Why shut down a profitable plant? Only the greed for an even larger profit margin. It's move to Costa Rica serves as another warning of what might be in store for many American workers in the era of Free Trade.

FUERZA UNIDA has filed two law suits against Levi Strauss & Co. One is a class action suit alleging pension fund violations, work injury claims compensation and severance pay. The other is a Racial Discrimination suit that charges the Levi Co. with discriminatory policies in laying off primarily workers/women of color.

FUERZA UNIDA is asking that people please boycott Levi Co. Products which include Levi's, Dockers, Brittania and Officer Corps. If you already have Levi products, tear off the labels and mail them in to the Levi Co. at 1155 Battery St. in San Francisco, CA, ATTN: Bob Haas. Tell him you will not buy their products until they settle with FUERZA UNIDA.

For more information or to make donations to FUERZA UNIDA write to:

FUERZA UNIDA
P.O. Box 830083
San Antonio, TX 78283-0083
or call: 1-512-229-1318

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Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the WIP Editorial Board and are solely those of the authors.

Keep those letters and cards coming. Correspondence and articles are always welcome. If possible submit articles on disk (WordPerfect). WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions; so for editing purposes please enclose your phone number. Send submissions to Works in Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

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Servants to Murder:
The Press, Bush and Iraq Today

Alexander Cockburn

The sight of President Bush and the First Lady standing mournfully outside their storm-wrecked home in Kennebunkport made me wish strongly that they were stationed 6,000 miles farther east, in Basra, ankle-deep in untreated sewage, carrying a sick child with scant hope of recovery since the Bush-inspired embargo of Iraq has rendered that country unable to afford necessary drugs, disinfectant, gauze, oxygen, anesthetic or, for that matter, food.

The Bush people, fully aware that pictures of plague-ridden babies in Basra are bad publicity, have recruited the usual compliant reporters to launch a counteroffensive. Take, for example, a story by Paul Lewis in *The New York Times* for November 5, datelined the United Nations: *As of last October 18, the Security Council committee overseeing sanctions had authorized 4.2 million tons of food exports to Iraq, more than 80 percent of the 5 million tons of food it normally buys abroad each year.*

This implies that 4.2 million tons of food are on their way to or have already reached Iraq. Not so. Assuming Lewis's 4.2 million figure is accurate (which is probably not the case, since he gets everything else wrong), it simply means that prospective exporters have approached the U.N. Security Council in response to requests from Iraq for food, and the Security Council has given its assent to the proposed shipments. But first Iraq must come up with money it doesn't have. The Australians got Security Council approval for a grain deal, but the Iraqis could not produce the cash either for the grain or for settlement of past debts, which the Australians were demanding.

Iraq's food requirements are also understated in Lewis's article. On July 15 a report prepared by a delegation from the U.N. Secretary General's office led by Sadruddin Aga Khan stated that Iraq would need 7.469 million tons of food for the period from July 1991 to June 1992. (Iraq's harvest this year was down 75 percent from last year, and next year's harvest has been calculated by the International Study Team—which includes the Harvard Medical School people—at 20 percent of this year's.)

Paul Lewis's story in the *Times* continues: "United Nations officials say they do not know how much food has been imported so far, but from spot checks carried out inside Iraq, they say that considerable amounts are now entering the country. This conclusion is supported by studies of Iraq's domestic food markets, where prices have stabilized in recent weeks."

What does this mean? Given that before the war most of Iraq's bulk imports came by sea via the port of Basra, which is still closed, it is inconceivable that incoming supplies could be anything approaching adequate, even granted possible seepage across the Turkish and Iranian borders. "Spot checks" are beside the point. All that is required is for someone to stand at the Jordanian border counting the trucks.

Food prices have in fact been increasing in Iraq recently. In Baghdad, where prices are slightly lower than elsewhere, the price of rice has doubled in the past six weeks, from 3.5 dinars a kilo to 7 dinars. Even if the price had remained "stabilized" at the lower level, that would still represent a 1,422 percent increase in the price of a kilo of rice since August 1990.

"How Iraq is paying for these food imports," Lewis goes on, "remains a mystery. But Western diplomats say Baghdad clearly has access to a secret supply of convertible currency that has escaped the effort to impound its foreign assets." Since the alleged bulk "food imports" do not exist, there is in fact no mystery. In one background briefing earlier this year, senior U.S. government officials had expressed doubt to Andrew and Leslie Cockburn that Saddam Hussein has much money stashed abroad. He invaded Kuwait, remember, because he was desperately short of cash. These officials put the reserve at most at "hundreds of millions, not billions." The Aga Khan's report put the price of the Iraqis' food requirement at $2.635 billion.

More from the spoon-fed Lewis: "So far Iraq has refused to accept the Security Council's offer to allow limited oil sales, saying the strict conditions imposed are an insult to the country's sovereignty." So only the pigheadedness of Saddam Hussein stands between the Iraqi people and desperately needed foreign exchange. In fact, the U.N.'s offer was carefully designed to be unworkable, both in the manner that Iraq would be permitted to sell oil and in the extent to which such sales would afford relief.

Soon after the Aga Khan's July report assessing the $2.6 billion cost of maintaining tolerable food consumption, plus another $500 million to import seeds and pesticides for next year's planting, Secretary of State James Baker met with British Ambassador Sir Antony Acland, who subsequently cabled the Foreign Of Office to say the two had agreed that something had to be done to combat the prospect of adverse P.R. from the starving Iraqi babies.

. . . "Bush says he wants to teach us a lesson. But what is the lesson?" Certainly not a lesson in international morality. I think the "lesson" is the very essence of the Third World condition: dependency.

In August the U.N. Security Council duly passed Resolution 706 authorizing Iraq to sell up to $.6 billion worth of oil for "essential humanitarian imports," after deduction of 30 percent for war compensation and U.N. costs in Iraq The precise sum was to be determined following a report from the Secretary General.

That report, issued in September, stated that the "total estimate of humanitarian requirements is $1.73 billion net of deductions." But given the Security Council's ceiling of $1.6 billion, minus the required deductions of $666.3 million, it turns out that Resolution 706, designed by the United States and Britain to mitigate the impact of those starving children, in fact allowed for $800 million less than the minimum required. On October 3, an internal report from the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization said that after transportation costs, the sum available would amount to $870 million worth of food, "substantially less than the bare minimum requirement."

U.S. officials are no doubt particularly keen now to foster the image of Iraqi obduracy in refusing relief. On December 31, the agreement under which UN relief operations are permitted in Iraq will expire. Thus public opinion is being D identify Iraq as the culprit if the U.S. blocks renewal of the agreement and the suffering among Iraq's people deepens Patrick Tyler's story in *The New York Times* for November 3, he quoted relief authorities, David Broderick of Catholic Relief, as saying the Iraqi government had blocked food distribution from churches and , from health care clinics in the Amarra area near Basra. I am told by Catholic Relief's office in Baltit this is not at all the story it received from Broderick. The Iraqis requested a shift in distribution from churches to church associations. Apparently they thought such distribution would be less socially divisive than having let's say, Chaldeans being given publicly separate handouts at their places of worship. The Iraqis requested a shift from clinics, since distribution was getting in the way of the curative functions of those places. They asked Broderick to find other distribution centers but did not block handouts.

The press has shown itself, much of the time, to be both ductile and gullible as the United States and its allies pursue their war against the citizens of Iraq. Lewis raises the possibility of Baghdad's desire for "a new confrontation" with the Council. He seems to be referring to an episode in September when David Kay, head of a U.N. team of inspectors investigating Iraq's nuclear secrets, had a standoff with Iraqi security people in a parking lot in Baghdad. The image successfully conveyed was of Steve Squarejaw facing down the mendacious wog. But British and American journalists in later confided that on the relevant day, Kay's P.R. man summoned TV crews to the top floor of a hotel to point their cameras at an adjacent parking lot. Three-quarters of an hour later their patience was rewarded when Kay and his men came scuttling out of the ministry where they had been photocopying documents and began a confrontation. Non-U.S. inspectors on the team said they were a bit astonished at Kay's action, because the Iraqis had been placing no impediments in their path. In other words, the whole affair was carefully staged, allowing the tractable U.S. press to bellow that at last Saddam's nuclear plans had been torn from their secret hiding places. This must have been the fiftieth time that the "proofs" of these plans were triumphantly disclosed.

The War's True Purpose

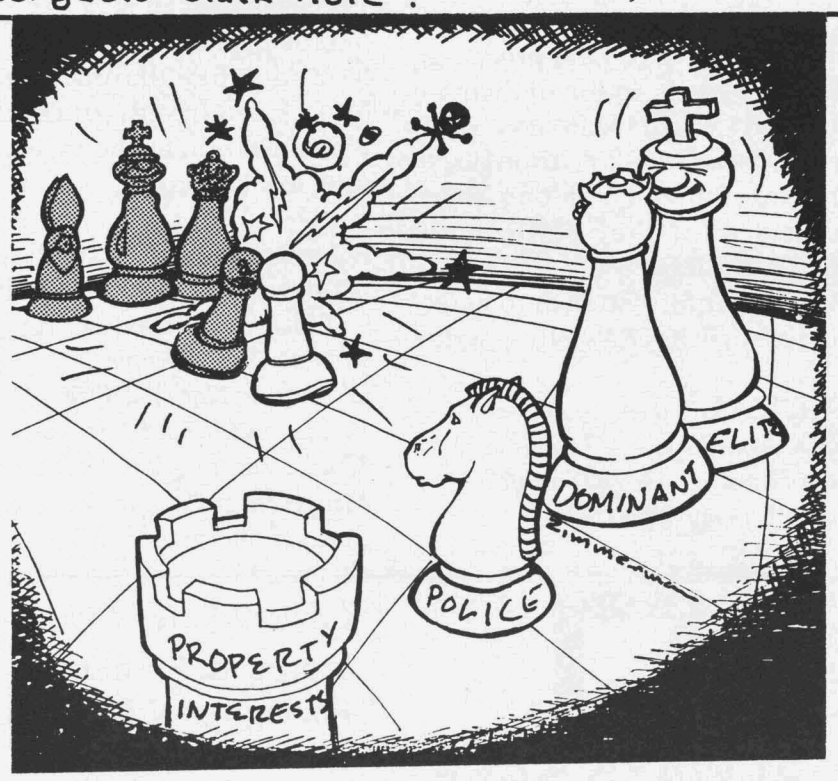
The proclaimed purpose of the embargo is to provoke sufficient discontent among Iraqis to cause them to rise up against Saddam Hussein and eject him. But the U.S. planners have never seriously believed that would happen. So why are Bush and his accomplices in the U.N. deliberately perpetuating a war on the people of Iraq? For these people the war continues more devastatingly than in January or February: 15 million gallons an hour of raw sewage pour into the Tigris in Baghdad, for example; there are 22,000 cases of typhoid a day in one province in the south; and, to take one district in Baghdad, mortality among children under a year old is up from 575 between January and September 1990 to 1,147 in the same period this year. This is an upper-middle-class district. The situation is certainly worse outside Baghdad and in poor areas, where there has been an estimate of a fourfold increase.

Doug Lummis, one of the editors of the English-language Japanese periodical *Ampo*, was part of the Japan Fact-finding Citizens' Task Force, which went to Iraq to document the effects of the war and the embargo on ordinary people there. Lummis himself went mostly to Basra. His subsequent brilliant description and analysis, scheduled for publication in *Ampo*, contains the most compellingly written statement I've seen of what the war was, and still is, all about:

Iraq was not bombed back into the Stone Age. It was bombed, and is being embargoed, back into the Third World. Deep, deep back into the Third World, which it had had the audacity to raise itself out from with oil money. Oil money was used to provide the country with an advanced technological and industrial infrastructure. This is precisely what the smart bombs

RACISIM
A bourgeois black hole!

by Al Zimmerman



They never get tired of this... and as long as we keep them at each other, they'll never be able to see what we're doing!

Looking Towards 92's Presidential Primary

Dan Taylor

Believe it or not it's time to think about next year's election. (What?! This year's election just got over with! Why do we have to start thinking about next years'?) Because if you want your favorite presidential nominee to win the bid for the Democrats, you have to vote for him/her on March 3rd. (Wait, the Presidential Primary isn't until May 19th, right?) Yes, but the Primary is only going to be a "beauty contest" election. It will have no effect on how Washington State's delegates to the National Convention are selected. For the longest time, Washington Democrats used the caucus system to determine how our delegates were going to be distributed among the candidates. And in 1992 it is not going to be different.

On March 3rd from 8:00 pm to at least 9:00 pm, every precinct in Washington State will hold a caucus. There and only there will you vote for President (and have it count). Now there are some advantages and disadvantages to this system. The biggest disadvantage is that instead of taking a couple of minutes to vote, you have to go to an hour long meeting. In my opinion, it is outweighed by the fact that you are engaged in one of the most grassroots of democratic processes.

If we, as the Thurston County Rainbow, want to influence the local Democratic Party, we have to go to the caucuses with Rainbow resolutions and try to get them passed. Also we must get elected to county and state conventions so we can affect the county and state platforms.

What Happens at a Precinct Caucus:

At 8:00 pm the caucus starts and everybody signs in. Most people will have a presidential preference for whom they will vote. If you do not have a preference you may vote undecided. The caucus will be chaired by the Precinct Committee Officer or PC. If your precinct does not have a PC, your first order of business is to elect a chair for the caucus. After that, the resolutions brought to the caucus are discussed. You can amend them and ratify them. If you ratify them they will go to the county and be considered when the platform is drafted.

At 8:30 pm and no earlier, you can elect people to go to the County Convention. Unless the rules have changed, each precinct can choose three delegates and three alternatives to represent the precinct at the County Convention. These people are allocated by the representation of votes in the precinct. For example: let's say 15 people went to my precinct caucus, nine of them are for candidate A, one is for candidate B, two are for candidate C, and three are uncommitted. Since candidate A has almost two-thirds of the votes he/she would get two of the three delegates and two of the three alternates. Since candidates B and C do not have at least 15% (B: 6.7%, C: 13.3%) of the vote, they would not get a delegate or alternate. So, the undecided would get the remaining delegate and alternate. If candidate C got three votes instead of two, he/she and the "undecideds" would share the last delegate and alternate.

At 9:00 pm and no earlier, the caucus can be adjourned.

Dan is a Co-Coordinator of the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition and is active in the local democratic Party as well.

If we, as the Thurston County Rainbow, want to influence the local Democratic Party, we have to go to the caucuses with Rainbow resolutions and try to get them passed.

I AGREE WITH THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

A grassroots organization that works for the people the two political parties frequently ignore: peace activists, people of color, the differently-abled, union members, women, environmentalists, gays and lesbians, the homeless, the working poor, and other community people.

An organization that supports and encourages progressive electoral candidates. An organization that networks and works with others who have the same goals.

Join the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition and get involved.

Yes, I'm interested in joining the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition
❑ Enclosed is: $25; $10 low-income.
❑ Yes, I want to be involved in Rainbow activities. Give me a call.

(name) _____

(address) _____

(city) _____ (state) _____ (zip) _____

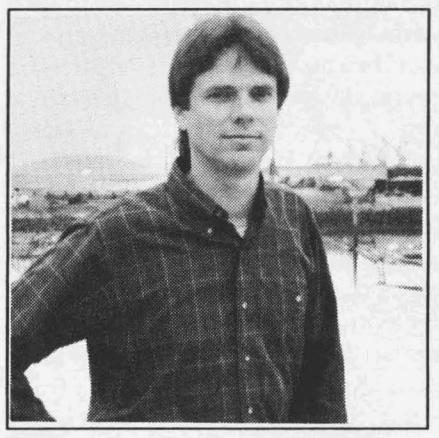
(work phone) _____ (home phone) _____

(issues of interest): _____

Send to: Thurston County Rainbow Coalition, P.O. Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507. For information call 943-1810 or 456-4773.

Next Meeting :
Dec. 14 12:30 - 2:30
First Christian Church
7th and Franklin

We will discuss policy in upcoming legislative session and taxes and the possibility of lobbying for a new tax structure.



Jeff Dickison, newly elected Port of Olympia Commissioner

THANKS *for* YOUR SUPPORT

Your vote has enabled us to take the first step towards developing a cooperative, sustainable and environmentally responsible Port economy.

Your continued involvement in the months ahead will be vital. A citizen advisory planning process to define the Port of Olympia's future will be initiated. Your participation is essential to our success.

Thanks again for your vote of confidence, as commissioner for the Port of Olympia I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Jeff Dickison

were programmed to pulverize. Oil money was used to provide the people with a relatively high minimum standard of living. This is precisely what the embargo is driving down. Oil money had brought the Iraqi people a relative sense of self-sufficiency. This is precisely what must be got rid of to bring Iraq into George Bush's New World Order.

One Iraqi man asked me, "Bush says he wants to teach us a lesson. But what is the lesson?" Certainly not a lesson in international morality. I think the "lesson" is the very essence of the Third World condition: dependency. The bombing and the embargo not only teach dependency, but have physically driven Iraq back into a position of economic and technological dependency. "Nothing works ' the woman technologist at the ultra-modern Basra General Hospital repeated over and over. "We cannot get the parts." Her frustration was intensified by the fact that she knew she could repair the equipment if she could get the parts, and she knew the government could buy the parts if it could sell oil. The lesson is that even if a country has, like Iraq, money, sophisticated technology and a skilled labor force, the countries of the north have the power to drive it back into a state of dependency, just like that of the poorest country in the Third World.

The society is not in a state of disaster, but it stands at the edge of disaster. Machinery that has been barely put back into operation by resourceful mechanics and engineers is bound to break down again soon. Families feeding themselves by selling their household goods will soon run out of things to sell— if they do not run out of buyers first. Presumably the government will not be able to maintain even its minimum rationing system indefinitely. When all these temporary expedients have been exhausted, the society will fall not into genial starvation but selective starvation. The poor will starve and the rich will, as the rich always do, find ways to make money out of the poor's starvation. The free/black market will boom, and prosperous disaster relief and aid experts will crowd Baghdad's five-star hotels. Iraq, in short, will be returned to the state of a full-fledged Third World dependent economy.

Regina Costa covers the cost of reprinting this column monthly.

Las aventuras de Gregoria: Parte uno, del Sur a Tijuana.

La siguiente narrativa, es la primera parte de una serie que será presentado en Works in Progress. Son de una ilegal, quien es nueva en nuestra área. La razón por la que esta columna será bilingual, es para comunicar a la gente común de esta área, la vida de una ilegal, y las cosas que suceden alrededor de ella.

Es importante luchar contra el concepto de ilegales. Porqué? definimos a algunas personas con este concepto, mientras que a los demás les llamamos hombres y mujeres, o Americanos. cuál es el motivo por el cual damos diferentes nombres a las personas? Quién el que últimamente sale triunfador, y quién el perdedor.

El Artículo de este mes es sobre los viajes de Gregoria desde su tierra natal a la frontera de Tijuana:

Mi vida aquí es muy interesante, a veces, creo que demasiado; cuando estuve en mi pueblo tuve la ilusión de conocer los Estados Unidos (E.E.U.) y tenía deseos de aprender inglés. También quise estar con una familia que vive en el Estado de Washington. Otro de los motivos por lo que quería venir a los E.E.U., era que dos años atrás, habían matado a mi papa pistoleros pagados por el Estado. A raíz de este problema mi familia estaba en una situación económica muy desesperada. También oía a través de algunos paisanos que en E.E.U. hay mucho dinero, pues, entonces pensé que podía ganar dinero y enviar a mi mamá un poco.

Al principio traté de conseguir una visa como estudiante, pero me fue imposible, porque el Consulado me pidió un montón de papeles, que para mi era imposible conseguir. Luego de dar tantas vueltas, decidí que no iba a seguir el juego a esa estupida burocracia.

Ahora que me acuerdo, me da mucha tristeza, porque pienso en los amigos y la familia que dejé. Al principio traté de conseguir una visa como estudiante, pero me fue imposible, porque el Consulado me pidió un montón de papeles, que para mi era imposible conseguir. Luego de dar tantas vueltas, decidí que no iba a seguir el juego a esa estupida burocracia.

Incluso, alguien del mismo Consulado de los E.E.U., me dijo que cada día pasan miles y miles de persona por la frontera como mojados, sin necesidad de tratar de conseguir vanamente una visa. Pues entoces, decidí pasar de mojada a los E.E.U.

En el principio visité Ciudad Juárez, un pueblo de la frontera, que está cara a cara con el Paso Texas. Fui para ver como cruza la gente por la frontera, quería conocer, porque después, yo tendría que hacer lo mismo. Inmediatamente me di cuenta que era muy fácil hacerlo, a las 12 del día había mucha gente pasando abajo del puente fronterizo, y la migra no se daba abasto para detener a tanta gente. Muchas veces vi pasando a familias completas, incluso con niños, todos subidos en una llanta jalada por su coyote, en las narices de la migra, y por supuesto que en la noche había mucha más gente esperando una oportunidad de que la migra se atontara, y así poder pasar. Si sólo nos limitamos a hablar de los ilegales pasando por la frontera de Ciudad Juárez, sería incompleto. Si uno se encuentra en un pueblo de la frontera como Ciudad Juárez, puede uno darse cuenta muy bien de los resultados del mundo en que vivimos.

Muy cerca del puente fronterizo hay muchas casas de citas, y salones de baile en donde los ricos mexicanos y gringos vienen a desfogar sus deseos. Creo que la razón por lo que las mujeres de la frontera escogen esta opción, es porque no tienen la oportunidad de hallar otra cosa mejor. Porque lo único que pueden hacer es trabajar en las fábricas maquiladoras, en donde se quedan casi ciegas, y con otro malestares en el cuerpo, y además ganan un sueldo mísero, o irse de prostitutas. De lo que he escuchado de estas maquiladoras, es que en su gran mayoría las trabajadoras son mujeres; estas fábricas pagan un sueldo 60 centavos de dólar por horas más o menos. Estas fábricas eran originariamente de los E.E.U. y Canadá, pero los dueños cerraron las fábricas en estos lugares y se ubicaron en la frontera para pagar menos impuestos y un salario de miseria a sus trabajadores; la mayoría de nuestros paisanos tienen la necesidad de tomar estos trabajos porque no hay otra alternativa. Porque la situación económica en nuestro país es muy mal, por esa razón es que cada día salen muchos campesinos del campo hacía la ciudad con la esperanza de encontrar trabajo.

Pues después mejor tomé la decisión de ir a Tijuana, porque allá consegui un coyote a través de una amiga de San Diego; pero lo más importante es que en San Diego me esperaba un coche para llevarme a Washington. Cuando llegué la estación de autobuses en Tijuana me dió mucha risa, porque me sentí la protagonista de la película Al Norte (película de los indígenas guatemaltecos cruzando ilegalmente hacía los Estados Unidos en la frontera de Tijuana.) Porque había muchos hombres gritándome "a Los Angeles sin papeles, sólo por 300$", estos hombres me siguieron mucho. Más adelante por una calle muy cerca de frontera había un hombre con un camión y algunas personas adentro gritando "a los Angeles esta noche, córrale, córrale que se acaba el cupo!"

Continua el próximo mes.

English Translation: The Adventures of Gregoria: Part one, from South to Tijuana

The following narrative is the first of a series to be presented on a monthly basis in Works in Progress. They are from an "illegal alien" who is new to our area. The purpose behind this column which will be bilingual, is to communicate to the ordinary people of our area, issues concerning the life of an 'illegal alien,' and those around her.

In the beginning I tried to obtain a student visa, but that became impossible as the U.S. consulate required a pile of papers that are very difficult to obtain. After many attempts that only gave me the go around, I decided I was not going to play any more games with the stupid bureaucracy.

It is important to challenge the very concept of "illegal aliens." Why are some people called labeled so, while others are branded human, or American? For what purposes and to what ends are humans given different names by society? Who benefits ultimately, and who loses?

This month's article covers Gregoria's travels from her home state in the south of Mexico to the border town of Tijuana:

My life here is very interesting, at times too much. When I was in my hometown I wanted to know more about the United States, and be able to learn English. I also wanted to be with some of my family that lives in Washington State. In addition, the death of my father at the hands of armed men from the state two years ago, has left my family in quite desperate economic times. I thought as I heard so much about the United States with its "vast" money, that I could earn some and send it to my mother.

In remembering it all now, I feel sad thinking of friends and family I left behind. In the beginning I tried to obtain a student visa, but that became impossible as the U.S. consulate required a pile of papers that are very difficult to obtain. After many attempts that only gave me the go around, I decided I was not going to play any more games with the stupid bureaucracy.

Somebody at the same consulate of the United States said to me that every day pass thousands and thousands of people to the U.S. who never tried to go through the same process I went through. Well, that's when I decided to pass wetly through the water (mojado as they say), to the United States.

In the beginning I visited Ciudad Juarez, a border town facing El Paso Texas. I went to see how people pass illegally, possibly to attempt it myself. Immediately I recognized it was relatively easy to do so. People and more people were crossing the border at noon, and the migra (name for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service) could not endure detaining so many people. Many times I saw complete families crossing on top of a big rubber tire pulled by a coyote, (name given to those men, mostly Mexican, who earn a living off the misery of their very own people) directly under a border bridge, crossing literally into the heart of El Paso. It was beneath the noses of the migra, and of course in the night, many more waited to cross to the U.S.

To speak solely of the illegals crossing into Gringolandia (land of the United States) from Juarez, would be both incomplete and a disservice. To be in a border town between our country and the United States is to see right in the street the results of the world we live in.

Smack next to the border bridges are whore houses and dancing saloons where rich Mexicans and especially Gringos (Americans), come to 'enjoy' themselves. I believe the reason so many women 'choose' this profession is because they basically need to survive. The only other work available is to work in the maquiladoras (factories.) From what I've since read, and heard from some women I talked to in Juarez, is that a good portion if not a majority of the work force are women. The jobs pay around 60 to 65 cents an hour. The working conditions are quite impossible, sometimes women even losing their eyesight. The owners of these factories originally closed them down in Canada and the U.S., taking away from the workers their jobs. They come down here to 'give' us the misery of a job. Most of our people take these jobs out of the simple fact that we have no alternative. The situation in our country is very bad. Every day thousands of us leave the countryside, which is more and more desperate, to find work in the cities.

By this time I decided to go for Tijuana because I had obtained a coyote through a friend in San Diego. Most important is I had a car waiting for me in San Diego to carry me to Washington. When I arrived at the bus station I laughed a lot because i felt like the protagonist in the film El Norte (movie about Guatemalan Indians crossing illegally to the United states from Tijuana.) I heard and saw many men yelling "to Los Angeles without papers for 300$!" I was followed constantly by these people. Up ahead on the road between the bus station and downtown Tijuana a man stood next to a bus yelling "to Los Angeles tonight, run, run, hurry before the bus fills up.....!"

To be continued next month.

WIP Article submission deadline is Dec. 18
Also on that day, there will be a WIP meeting at SPEECH at 7pm. All are encouraged to attend and get involved. Call 956-9123 for info.

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RU486: A Safer Alternative to Abortion

Dave Zink

The recent general election here in Washington was noteworthy due to the record voter turnout. The reason was the presence of several controversial initiatives on the ballot. Perhaps the most controversial was Initiative 120: a measure designed to safeguard and somewhat extend a woman's right to an abortion in Washington State. The Supreme Court, now packed with conservative Reagan and Bush appointees, will probably overturn the Roe vs. Wade decision soon after the next federal elections in '92. As I'm writing this, the measure appears to have passed - by about 1,200 votes: a real "squeaker"! A recount will probably be required.

The French Ministry of Health has declared this drug safe. Claude Evin, France's Minister of Health has stated that RU486 is the "moral property of all women.

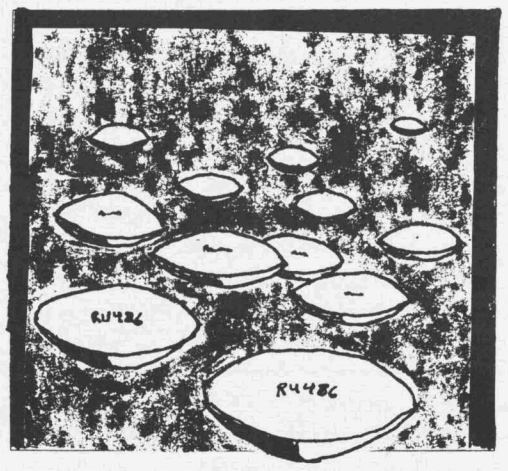
I was active in the "Yes on 120" committee during the campaign. While I had realized that this was a contentious issue for some time, it became even more clear that the abortion controversy is causing serious discord within the working class. The ruling class loves this! It is in their interests to keep working people divided into as many contending factions as possible. The distraction keeps us from developing the consciousness needed for an effective unified effort to build a better world. This is probably a primary reason capitalism has been able to survive as long as it has.

It is in the interests of all progressives who would "unite the many to defeat the few" to strive to overcome divisions within the working class and its allies. The big question is: How? Fortunately, in this case, an answer has presented itself: a safe, efficient, user-friendly medication developed in France, called RU486, that has proven to be 96% effective up to the 49th day of pregnancy. Unlike abortion, no invasion procedure nor anesthesia is required. According to Planned Parenthood, the drug also has the potential for preventing implantation and inducing menstruation when administered in the last half of the menstrual cycle. General availability of RU486 could render the abortion controversy irrelevant.

RU486 is also being tested for use in treatment of breast and prostrate cancer, Cushing's syndrome, and glaucoma.

The French Ministry of Health has declared this drug safe. Claude Evin, France's Minister of Health has stated that RU486 is the "moral property of all women. But RU486 is unavailable in the USA because it is, so far, illegal. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not certified it. Some of the same well-financed right-wing fundamentalist string-pullers that have worked effectively behind the scenes in mobilizing Operation Rescue and the anti-choice forces in general, have applied pressure at various strategic points in the Bush Administration to keep RU486 out. They have also threatened pickets, boycotts, and demonstrations against any company willing to research and develop the drug in the U.S.A.

There are some things we can do to fight back. Become better informed about this issue: contact your local Planned Parenthood office or the Feminist Majority Foundation (8105 W 3rd St. #1, Los Angeles, CA 90048).



The "Campaign for RU486 and Contraceptive Research" (P.O. Box 96780, Washington, D.C. 20077) has a petition drive underway for the drug's legalization.

The major source for funding of research and development of new drugs is the federal government, the primary agency is the FDA. Unfortunately, the federal government has other priorities: it now spends less on contraceptive research in a year than the Defense Department spends in 15 minutes. A massive letter-writing campaign to the FDA requesting the agency get serious about research might help. Fire off a letter or postcard - today (1) - to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Center for Drug Evaluation, 5600 Fisher Lane HFD8, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

A word of caution: There are reports of black-market RU486 appearing at various locations, coming in from Mexico. Spread the word to avoid this stuff! RU486 should be used only under a doctor's direction. As with all illicit drugs, contamination and side-effects are of concern.

Support Our LocalCarpenters

Mark Bean

This is a copy of a letter from the District Council of Carpenters and myself to Mr. Doug Shinstine of Shinstine/Associates, to whom the contract to build the Olympia Headquarters fire station project was awarded.

I would like to ask you to please take the time to send Mr. Shinstine a letter in support of Olympia Carpenters Local #1148 effort to sign Shinstine/ Associates to a project agreement on this fire station job.

By doing this, you will be demonstrating your belief in local jobs for local workers, and craft education for future trades workers.

We would also appreciate a copy of your letter be sent to: Carpenters Local #1148, 119 1/2 Capitol Way North, Olympia, Washington 98501

Thank you very much.

Shinstine / Associates Inc.
PO Box 1027
Puyallup, WA 98371

Dear Mr. Shinstine:

Congratulations on being awarded the Olympia Headquarters Fire Station project. As you are aware, the Olympia City Council is quite interested in seeing that the benefits of community tax dollars stay in the greater Olympia area as much as possible. In fact, I believe, they have encouraged your firm to hire locally for the Headquarters project.

As the District Council of Carpenters and Carpenters Local #1148 of Olympia extend the hand of opportunity to you by offering you a project agreement between the two parties for the Headquarters Fire Station project, I would like to say that an agreement between the two of you would insure that local, skilled carpenters would have the chance to build the project. I would also like to point out that you would be contributing to the building of future skilled carpenters by the access to our state approved apprenticeship program.

Economically speaking, if you enter into this agreement, as a businessman you should realize that your company would save costs on carpenter's paychecks for the project because you would pay no social security taxes on the portion of pay earmarked for benefits as you would with your current situation on prevailing wage jobs. In addition, the local apprentices you would employ would give you access to the apprenticeship rates described in Public Works Law.

I can't see how you could not benefit from a project agreement between you on the Headquarters Fire Station. The wage scale and benefits are exactly those you will have to pay your carpenters under prevailing wage law. You would demonstrate to the Olympia City Council and the Olympia community your willingness to hire local carpenters and participate in training future, skilled trades workers through the only state-approved apprenticeship program which is second to none in the nation.

Name:_____

Address:_____

Affiliation:_____

Lesbian/Gay Bisexual Peoples' Resource Center presents:

in concert

Romanovsky & Phillips

Be Political Not Polite Tour

Sunday, Dec. 8, 7 pm
The Evergreen State College
Library 2000

$10 general admission; $ 7.50 students, seniors, and KAOS subscribers
All Tickets $10 at the door
Advance tickets available at TESC Bookstore, Rainy Day Record Company, Positively 4th Street, The Bookmark

For reservations and information: 866-6000 ext. 6544
Sign-language interpreted

Unemployment In America Is A Very Scary Pl

The following statements (edited for use in WIP) were made by members of the U.S. House of Congress on October 24, 1991 in regard to the unemployment crisis in the United States.

Rep. David Bonior, Michigan

. . . nothing I think brings home the pain of unemployment more than a family from my district who recently called my office. The father is a skilled tradesman, worked 20 years, but he has been unemployed since March. He has looked all over. One day he sat down with the yellow pages and made 300 phone calls and did not get one interview. His family has three children. The 12-year-old has allergies that turned into asthma. By now they cannot afford to take him to the doctor. They finally talked the doctor into taking a post-dated check for $72 to take care of this young man's problem. There is no telling when there will be money in the bank to cover it.

We have an economic disaster in Michigan. I have 12 percent of my people out of work. They cannot pay their mortgages. They cannot pay doctor bills. They have a difficult time even putting food on the table because of the policies of the Governor of the State with regard to people who are in desperate need, whether it is housing, food, or energy assistance. Unemployment was at 8.3 percent in July. In August it jumped to 9.1 percent in Michigan. Now it is 10 percent and it is even higher in places where the auto industry is predominant. I have 25,000 people out of work [in my district alone].

My district, northeast of Detroit, a suburban count made up of people who came from Detroit, whether to Warren or to Roseville or St . Clair Shores. In 1940, Macomb County had 107,000 people. Now it has 717,000 people. It is bigger than seven States of the Union. They are hard-working people. They are people not used to the idea that they might not be able to find work.

Mr. Speaker, let me close with a letter from one of my constituents in Mount Clemens, my home town. "We are educated people. I have an electrical engineering degree. To serve my country I did a tour in Vietnam. Now I need help. With a wife and three children, we are living with shattered dreams and in fright from day to day. My savings are gone and we may soon have to put the home we worked 18 years for on the market." The American dream, to have a home, a family, and then bam, it's gone. It is happening in every community in this country. People are scared to death.

Rep. David Obey, Wisconsin

If you want to know what is happening to the average American, you do not have to sit in the White House reading the economic reports of the Council of Economic Advisers. You do not have to listen to the OMB reports. You do not have to look at the Commerce Department statistics. Just go out in the average neighborhood and knock on a few doors. I did that last week in two communities in my district, Superior and Ashland. It is very interesting what you learn.

I talked to three different people who had the pleasure," in their words, of experiencing significant long-term unemployment. I talked a young woman whose job is to care for a very elderly person suffering from Alzheimers. She spends the entire day in that home, trying to keep this woman from injuring herself, trying to provide some human companionship. What did she ask me for? She did not ask me for a tax cut, she did not ask for a Government handout. What she asked is that we pay some attention to the people like the woman that she was caring for, who had been either ignored by society as a whole or who have lost their family and have nobody to care for them.

I went a few doors away and ran into a person in quite different circumstances, a person who had retired from an income of well over $90,000 a year. And what was he talking to me about? He talked to me about how he wanted a capital gains tax cut. Well, I have been impressed through my life by the fact that usually it is people with the least who expect the least, who ask the least from their Government. But they have a right to get more than table scraps.

Rep. Esteban Torres, California

I rise to add my voice to those of my colleagues, as we seek tonight to break the terrible silence which has surrounded the issue of unemployment. The statistics are hard and cold: As of September 8.4 million Americans, officially, are unemployed. Of these, almost 1.2 million, officially are from my home State of California. California's long-term unemployed jumped 50 percent since last year. As of July, 36,684 Californians had exhausted their unemployment benefits.

In Los Angeles County, the number whose joblessness has outlived their benefits has increased steadily each month, from 8,950 in January to a July high of 11, 993. All of the statistics in the world won't have the power to convey better the truth of our unemployment crisis than to read to you an actual letter sent to me by one of my constituents.

My constituent wrote: "When I last wrote you, I had lost my job from where I was employed for 14 1/2 years. I was terminated April 12, 1991 and now 4 months and 4 days later, I'm still unemployed. I have now contacted 77 companies for employment. I'm getting to the point now that I feel that it is futile for me to keep looking. I've spent the last 25 years as a machinist in the aerospace industry so I know that I'm qualified but for some reason or reasons, I've been overlooked and turned down on each and every job opening that I've applied. Maybe I have two things going against me, my age and my race. Come April 2, 1992, I know that I can apply for Social Security benefits for at that time I will be 62 years of age, but what do I do from the time my unemployment benefits run out, October 19, 1991, to my birthday? Let's be realistic and I've already told Mr. President this. As a black American male approaching the age of 62, I stand a better chance of hitting the California lottery where the odds are 1 in 23 million than ever getting employed again in the aerospace industry."

Rep. Butler Derrick, South Carolina

I would like to read from a letter that I have received from [a constituent]. She says: My husband, an industrial designer, was laid off in late May and will run out of unemployment benefits at the end of the year. He has interviewed with every design firm in the Bay Area and registered with headhunters working nationwide. He's received a lot of encouragement from employers who have seen his portfolio but no one is in a position to hire. There have been no ads in the paper and no feedback from the headhunters. We're obviously in for a long haul."

Rep. John Lewis, Georgia

In the State of Georgia alone, more that 100,000 Georgians have exhausted all of their unemployment benefits this year. A recent poll in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution showed that people in my district have been hit hard by the recession. Twelve percent of adults questioned in the poll said they had lost their jobs because of the recession. Another 33 percent say their financial position is worse than a year ago. Yesterday, I got a call from a CPA in my district. He has been out of work for more than 6 months. He has exhausted all of his benefits. He has no prospects for a new job. He is scared, very scared.

. . . another Atlantan who represents the hard times brought on by unemployment is Lindy Barnwell. She is the mother of two children : Stewart who is 15 and Taylor who is 9. She was a loyal employee for Eastern Airlines. She worked hard for 23 years. It was the only job she ever had. Until she lost her job when the airline folded in January, she and her husband had a four star credit rating, and were solid taxpayers. She and her husband, who is also unemployed, are now struggling to put food on the table. They have no health or medical insurance for themselves or their children. The funds that they had saved for their children's education ran out earlier this month. On November 5, if they cannot come up with the money, the bank will foreclose on their home. She told one of my staff today that she is willing to do "any type of work that is honorable". She said she is "working very hard at simply getting hired," Her husband is having similar problems. They are both too qualified for minimum wage jobs. Even if she could get a minimum wage job, she said: "One person can hardly live on minimum wage—much less four!"

Margaret Zimlich's benefits are also fully exhausted. She is a single parent, the mother of two daughters and a son. She is 43 years old and lives in Atlanta. Like Lindy Barnwell, she has devoted her working life to Eastern Airlines. She worked incessantly for 23 years, sometimes working a second job at Rich's department store selling cosmetics. During her tenure for the airline she took three pay cuts but she persevered. She is a hard worker, Mr. Speaker. Her situation highlights new and different hardships not found in my other examples of people in need. Ms. Zimlich has been forced to dip into her IRAs. The problem for her, Mr. Speaker, is that she receives a penalty for the early withdrawal of her money. At the end of the year she will be even further in debt and have even less money to get out of it. She won't have the money to pay her taxes. For her, the shadows of destitution are lengthening just as the days grow shorter and the weather grows colder. Most alarming of all her problems is that her 16-year-old daughter, Rebecca, is having to work 20 hours a week to help support the family. This is 20 hours that she doesn't spend studying, preparing for her future, the country's future. Her brother Aaron and her sister Jessica, too young to work, pitch in with odd jobs and baby-sitting. Working is normally regarded as character building and good for discipline, but when it infringes upon the education of our young people, it becomes destructive as any weapon, as debilitating as any plague.

Rep. Butler Derrick, South Carolina

[From a letter to President Bush from one of Derrick's constituents.] I realize you were born into wealth and probably cannot relate to what I'm talking about. I doubt if you understand what it means to try to feed a family while earning minimum wages or what it means to postpone needed health care because there's not enough money for health treatment and food. But you were elected to be my President and I am simply asking you to start leading and work with the Congress to solve the enormous problems here in America." It has been fascinating this evening to listen to the debate and discussion on the floor. Sometimes we in Michigan think, my gosh, it cannot be as bad elsewhere. . . . it is clear that we have a national economic recession that is costing this country enormously in terms of economic productivity and in terms of human sadness.

"Shhh. . . Don't wake 'em, they might exp

Rep. Howard Wolpe, Rep. Louis Stokes, Ohio

According to a recent report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1990, Cleveland had the highest unemployment rate for blacks among large U.S. cities for the second year in a row. The overall unemployment rate in Cleveland in 1990 was second in the nation, trailing only Detroit among large cities. These rankings do not tell the whole story; the actual numbers are startling. In 1990, the black unemployment rate in Cleveland was 20.7 percent. In other words, more than one in five of Cleveland's blacks were unemployed. The overall unemployment rate was 13.8 percent, meaning that more than one in eight of all Clevelanders were unemployed last year.

More importantly, these numbers do not tell the real story, because unemployment figures are not valid estimates of the true unemployment rate. Official Government unemployment estimates do not count workers who have exhausted their benefits or given up searching for jobs that simply are not available. These statistics also count part-time workers as part of the labor force,

"Better the occasional mistake of a Government that cares than the inaction of a Government frozen in the ice of its own indifference ." Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Place To Be

which completely ignores that fact that these individuals are underemployed.

In addition, the unemployment rate does not even begin to touch upon the most painful aspect of the current recession that was brought about by 10 years of Reagan-Bush economic policies which reaped massive budget deficits, the savings and loan debacle, and tripled the public debt. The most painful legacy of the Reagan-Bush era is the sickening statistics on the growing poverty rate in America .

In Cuyahoga County, OH, nearly one-fifth of the population live in poverty. Within the city of Cleveland, over 40 percent of the population is poor. Since 1980, the county's poverty rate has increased by 41.8 percent. An even more disturbing trend reflected in these factors is that during the last 5 years, large majority of the county's poverty growth has been in the suburbs, not in the city of Cleveland.

Rep. Jose Serrano, New York

We have been hovering around 20 percent unemployment for the last 10 to 12 years. That is a fact. I probably supply more dishwashers to the economy than anywhere else in the country. I supply more domestic

ight expect something!"

workers to the economy than anywhere else. What are we saying here? That on top of the misery of living in that part of the world and having to deal with that kind of a situation within the greatest and richest country on Earth, you are, if you don't find a job and find yourselves unemployed, going to be told by this same government which for years has told you, your cousin and your brother that there was nothing for you to do in this society, that now, you will not even get some extended benefits to cover you in the hope that someday you still be able to be one of the few in my area that may find a job.

I realize that there are members who would say, "Wait a minute, don't come blaming this on this particular issue. There are people here who in the final analysis have created those situations for themselves." Well, granted. And in the final analysis, a crack-smoking pregnant woman did that to herself. But in the initial analysis, there is a society that created situations and allowed situations to take place, not for all, I do not make excuses for all, but certainly for most. In Spanish we have a phrase which I will translate which is dar a luz, which means brings a child to light. When a baby sees light in the South Bronx, it is destined to run into all kinds of misery. What people with unemployment insurance who are lacking benefits are now beginning to see is some of that misery. They are beginning to come to the conclusion that the administration would rather play around with 30-second spots than to say to them you are hurting and we are going to help you.

Rep. Joseph Gaydos, Pennsylvania

. . . my own district has undergone a transition that has forced the jobs of some 40,000 steelworkers to be reduced to barely 5,000 workers involved with the creation of steel, iron, and coke. Now, even as we speak, some of those remaining 5,000 workers are worried about where their next paycheck will come from. Of the 67 counties in Pennsylvania, Alleghany County has the second highest number of unemployed people in the State, there are 34,300 people who are out work; and another 7,515 have exhausted their unemployment benefits.

Westmoreland County is also hard hit. Although Westmoreland County is less populated than Allegheny County, there are 10,600 people who are jobless and 2,753 of them have exhausted their unemployment benefits.

If you put these figures together, these two southwestern Pennsylvania counties account for a total of 44,900 people who are out of work and another 10, 268 who have exhausted their unemployment benefits between the months of March and August 1991. Do these figures portray an economic recovery in the United States? If there has been one it sure seems to have either ignored or bypassed southwestern Pennsylvania.

Rep. Jill Long, Indiana

The hard-working constituents in my district, unfortunately, are intimately aware of this country's failures with regard to unemployment compensation. We had one frustrated individual from my district who called and described his plight. His unemployment benefits expired, he could not find a job, and he was frustrated. When he visited my office, he had just been evicted from his apartment. The only option available to this individual was to seek shelter at the local rescue mission. Families in my district are also suffering due to the failures with the unemployment compensation system.

I recently had a call from a family with six children. Like many families, both parents had to work in order to feed and clothe their children. Several months ago the father lost his job and exhausted his unemployment benefits. Even after constant searching, he still cannot find work. This family does not ask the Government to provide them with a handout, they simply would like an opportunity to support themselves.

Rep. Joan Kelly Horn, Missouri

Mary Reedy in my district was laid off from her job as a program analyst with McDonnell Douglas a year ago. She estimates she sent out more than 700 resumes and had a couple of hundred job interviews. For that she got two temporary jobs and lots of disappointment. Mary says she has fought depression while laid off, sometimes having to force herself to get up and face the day. Laid-off workers often feel shock, denial, depression, rejection, and loss of identity. These are people who are used to working, who want to work. When a person is laid off, it affects the whole family. Stress is high. Finances are tight, and the roles of family members change.

The St. Louis area has lost 11,500 manufacturing jobs, 4,800 construction jobs, and 4,400 wholesale and retail jobs in the last year alone. In August, 91,00 people were unemployed in the St. Louis area and looking for work; 47,500 of them had been laid off.

Mike Pullum wants to work, too. It has been a year since this 32-year-old electrical engineer lost his job at McDonnell Douglas in the first wave of this company's 11,000 layoffs. After 12 months of filling out applications, mailing resumes, and sweating through interviews, Mike is still looking for work. He said it is a joke to turn on the news or read in the paper that the economy is easing up.

". . . it is clear that we have a national economic recession that is costing this country enormously in terms of economic productivity and in terms of human sadness." Rep. Derrick

Rep. Dale Glickman, Kansas

Kansas, where I am from, is not a high-unemployment state. Our numbers are less than 4.5 percent. Yet in my own district there are 15,000 people unemployed, many of whom have fallen through that safety net and are no longer eligible for unemployment benefits.

In my whole state there are 60,000 people unemployed. Those numbers reflect the sorry state of American agriculture, which has suffered red so dramatically and whose numbers do not compute into the national unemployment figures.

Rep. Nick Joe Rahall, West Virginia

West Virginia's unemployment rate at the present time is just short of being in double digits. Currently, West Virginia's rate is 9. 8 percent. That's an average statewide unemployment rate. But, Mr. Speaker, the unemployment rate in many towns and cities located in my district are in double digits—some that in the past relied solely upon the coal industry for their economic well-being are nearing 50 percent in unemployment statistics.

Once again, the Maidenform plants located in Princeton in Mercer county, and in Huntington in Cabel County, WV, are closing down those two plants, tossing another 220 workers into the pool of the unemployed. In Mercer County that means 145 people out of work; in Cabell County, 75 persons are out of work by the end of this year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Where will Maidenform relocate? We are not sure. The union representatives seem to think they are headed for Mexico—or offshore to one of their other plants already working out of Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, or Costa Rica. Or how about Florida, a right-to-work state.

Always, when plants close in our states and districts, the owners seem to be headed anywhere where people will work for practically nothing, or as in right-to-work states, at nonunion wages. This is part and parcel of what I feared the most when Congress agreed to the Mexico Free Trade Agreement and put it on a fast track . Every time one of us got up on the floor of this House and warned that jobs would disappear—others go up and said they wouldn't. They have, and they are, and they will continue to move offshore and south of the border, putting more and more Americans out of work, who will probably exhaust their unemployment benefits before business and industry begin to rehire, because this recession isn't over yet, whether the President has the common sense to understand that or not.

Rep. Dale Kildee, Michigan

My mother is 91 years old. Every Sunday morning after Mass I have breakfast with her and get great wisdom from her. Recently she said, "You know, Dale, things are getting like they were back in the 1930's". I said, "What do you mean, Mother?" She said, "Well, the unemployment we have here, Flint has been terribly stricken by unemployment, automobile city." She said, "The way we are treating their unions at Castle's they just busted the union there." She said, "They don't like sharing this country with us." My mother is a very wise woman.

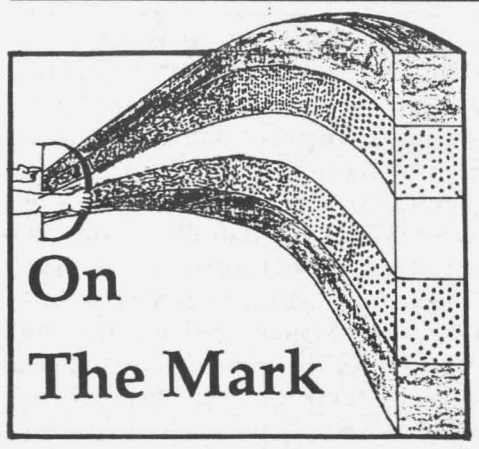
Friends Against Rate increasE

In recent years, the population of Thurston County has increased. With this increase in population has come traffic jams, parking problems, and a decrease in air quality. For the most part, Intercity Transit has met , and continues to meet, the challenges presented by the area's rapid growth by providing affordable and accessible bus service for all. We applaud them and support their plans to even further expand this service. However, we believe that an increase in fares would defeat the purpose of the proposed expansion. To urge the public to use public transit while at the same time raising the prices seems to be self-defeating. Not only will a 15 cents a ride increase limit many of IT's riders' ability to go where they want when they want, it will also make bus riding a less attractive option to those who own and can afford to drive cars. This, in turn, will cause our traffic, parking, and pollution problems to worsen.

The proposed plans to expand IT's regular service, as well as its innovative dial-a-ride and custom bus services, needs to be supported if we are to find a workable solution to our area's traffic and pollution problems. It seems that funding can come from sources other than the riders' wallets. After all, the legislature was able to fund its free legislative shuttle with our tax monies. Why can't it fund inexpensive public transportation for the rest of us, in Thurston County and throughout the state?

There will be two information meetings at SPEECH, 218 W 4th on 12/14/91, 1-2:30 pm and 1/3/92, 7pm. There will be a public hearing on 1/8/92. IT will annouce the time and place by 12/9/91.

For more information, contact Chris at 956-9123.



PARTICIPATORY ECONOMICS

Dave Jette

In October we introduced a new book, *Looking Forward: Participatory Economics for the Twenty First Century*, by Michael Albert and Robin Hahnel (South End Press, 1991). What this book does is to provide a liberatory vision of the economic functioning of a future society. In the previous column we reviewed its fundamental rejection of both capitalist and Soviet-style economies, and now we shall look at what it proposes to aim for instead.

The outlook of this book is that the economy should function in a completely democratic and collective way. As we pointed out last time, this was also the stated goal of Marxism, although the specifics of what such a "communist" society might be were never elaborated by such socialists as Marx, Engels, and Lenin as well as by their professed followers such as Stalin. In the case of the Stalinists, of course, such an egalitarian society was never their goal, and in reading *Looking Forward* we can see why elaborating the details of communism may have been impossible for the earlier Marxists. For in fact such a vision of a future society seems to have required the present information revolution which we are now undergoing, based upon the personal computer. It is in fact this technical advance which makes possible society-wide exchange of information and ideas by individuals, which is essential for democratic and viable planning of the functioning of the economy. Thus the "participatory economics" put forward in *Looking Forward* is able to avoid the tyranny both of the market, with its gross inequalities and debasement of humanity, and of centrally (and bureaucratically) planned economies of the Soviet type, which mainly serve the interests of a new exploitative class (and don't work anyway).

There are three major aspects to participatory economics: organization of work efficiently and productively without hierarchy, consumption which is fulfilling and also equitable, and economic planning which promotes solidarity and fosters self-management while "getting the job done". We now review each of these aspects in turn.

The Workplace

Participatory economics organizes work at the workplace in a democratic, nonhierarchical way. This is done through redefining work into "balanced job complexes" in such a way that conceptual labor is combined with manual labor in roughly equal proportions for everyone. Rather than having "experts" at conceptual labor who dominate those doing manual labor, the object is both to make work interesting and fulfilling for everyone, and to develop everyone's skills at planning and evaluating workplace activity. As *Looking Forward* explains it (pp. 12-13),

> *work is carried out under the auspices of democratic workplace councils, one person one vote, with sensible delegation of responsibilities. There is no fixed workplace hierarchy. Each worker has a complex of responsibilities - some conceptual, some manual; some empowering, some rote - such that each worker's set of tasks (or "job complex") is balanced equitably with those of other workers. Each worker has a fair share of both desirable and not so desirable things to do, has comparable responsibilities and opportunities, and is equally prepared to participate in decision making.*

Rather than having "experts" at conceptual labor who dominate those doing manual labor, the object is both to make work interesting and fulfilling for everyone. . .

A great strength of *Looking Forward* is that it doesn't simply give high-sounding principles of the humane society of the future; it also provides concrete examples of how things might look, so that we can get some idea of the strengths and weaknesses of what is being proposed. Regarding the workplace, one of its examples concerns the (fictional) Jesse Owens Airport, and we can relate here part of this example (p.38):

> *Whereas at a capitalist airport an air-traffic controller would work a fifty- and sometimes a sixty-hour week and develop tension-related ailments, at Jesse Owens she would do air traffic work for only twenty hours and spend the rest of her time doing low tension tasks during which she could interact pleasantly with coworkers. While a flight attendant on a capitalist plane must always cater to passengers in a solicitous, menial way regardless of their behavior, at Jess Owens he might have piloted an earlier flight, and then worked handling baggage and in the finance-planning office for the rest of the week. Moreover, when attending to the needs of passengers he would not be motivated by a desire to avoid being fired or to upstage fellow workers, but by a desire to provide a pleasant trip, good service, and quality work as a member of a team producing a worthy product. This would never require being servile. All work would be "humanized" as people's motives emphasize working for one's peers. Indeed, this typifies the change from a class-structured (and race- and gender-stratified) workplace in which motives develop in light of conflicts with one's coworkers and the desire to avoid getting screwed, to a self-managed workplace where one respects one's coworkers and enjoys the solidarity and pleasure of diverse work providing a socially useful product.*

Consumption

The distribution of material goods and services under capitalism is, as we know only too well, grossly unequal. In the United States, many people don't even have homes, and a great many more don't have adequate medical or dental care. Access to decent education is largely dependent upon one's family's income. The capitalists and their entourage tell us the only practical way to run an economy is by making distribution proportional to the value of the work performed, which is (at least approximately) measured by one's wages. Naturally, those who contribute more to the total production of society will be rewarded with a better lifestyle.

This argument is of course specious and self-serving, for the capitalists amass their wealth not by working to the benefit of society as a whole, but rather by expropriating the products of the labor of others - the capitalists have the game rigged. But there is an element of truth to their argument, for people will not work hard unless it benefits them to do so (or unless they have no choice in order to physically survive, which is how it works in our society for those at the bottom of the economy). So the problem for participatory economics is to devise a distributive mechanism for attaining material equality by promoting consumption according to a combination of need and effort.

What is required is to make sure that each person benefits from her/his labor in proportion as the community as a whole, thereby gaining a material, social, and emotional interest in cooperation and solidarity aimed at the greatest good for all. Given such a mechanism, then, the process of consumption works generally in the following way (*Looking Forward*, p. 13):

> *Consumers receive roughly equal shares of the social product. While they still shop, act on impulse, and borrow and save, consumers must also do a reasonable job of predicting their consumption in advance. Changes in production and consumption eliminate needless waste in packaging, advertising, product*

duplication, etc. Collective goods are chosen by consumer councils with one person one vote. Equity and self-management prevail, but so do respect for privacy and a positive attitude toward diversity and experimentation.

Economic Planning

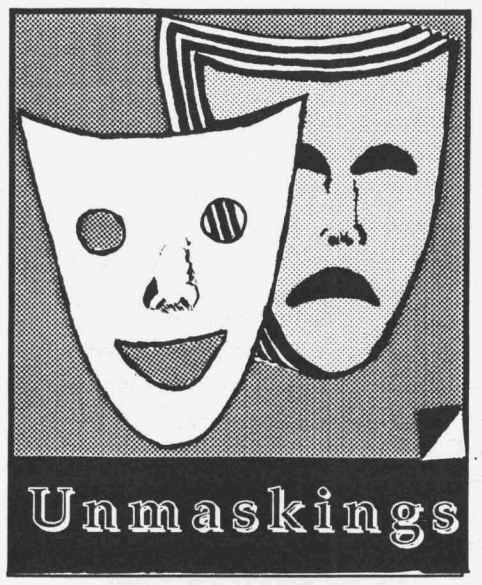
In last July/August's issue of Z Magazine is a discussion and evaluation of *Looking Forward* by sixteen activists which is very much worth reading. We can't go into their (mainly positive) reactions to the book here, but it useful to quote the description of their vision of economic planning which Albert and Hahnel give there. According to them (p. 62), participatory economics includes

a decision-making process based on the proportionate participation of all workers and consumers in an informed negotiation in which actors collectively decide what is produced, with what methods, and how it is distributed, all in light of one another's circumstances and with a say proportionate to their involvement in each decision's implications. This eliminates central planning's denial of self management and inculcation of widespread passivity by eliminating any top or center. And it eliminates the alienation and antisocial and allocative biases typical of markets by instituting informed participation and mutuality of aims.

What this all means is explained in the book itself (p. 13):

Participatory planning in the new economy is a means by which worker and consumer councils negotiate and revise their proposals for what they will produce and consume. All parties relay their proposals to one another via "facilitation boards". In light of each round's new information, workers and consumers revise their proposals in a way that finally yields a workable match between consumption requests and production proposals. The system rests on a comprehensive exchange of information including a new type of "indicative prices" to help with calculations, data about supply and demand to help people create proposals, and qualitative accounts of social relations to promote better decisions and greater solidarity.

Looking Forward presents a new, liberatory vision of economic functioning, in opposition to the authoritarian exploitative systems of capitalism and "Soviet socialism". As we stressed last time, it is vital that we have a concrete vision - albeit approximate - of the liberated society of the future if we are to work effectively toward its realization. This short review can necessarily be only a general introduction to the exciting ideas presented in this book, and the reader should get her/his hands on it and explore it in its full detail. It's available directly from South End Press (P.O. Box 741, Monroe, ME 04951) for $10.00 + $3.00 postage, and while you're at it be sure to get their catalogue as well. You'll be very glad you did!



Ron Jacobs

RING OUT THE OLD, BRING IN THE NEW?

Yahoo! It's the end of 1991.... The year that introduced us to the new world order with a war against Iraq, remember? Or, to be truthful, a slaughter. Like the Romans of old, the empire's vastly superior armies attacked its latest enemy and killed while the rest of the world looked on. Those of us who opposed the massacre were jailed, attacked, harassed, belittled, and, mostly, ignored. In the media-centered world we live in, the latter was the tactic which weakened our movement the most. Instead of fulfilling an adversarial role like it should, the mainstream media created the atmosphere which made new world slaughter palatable to the citizenry. Like battered women who feel they have nowhere else to go, the people of the U.S. stood by their man as he beat up on another hapless victim — the Iraqi people.

Following the initial slaughter, the new world rulers manipulated people's desire for self-determination into support for the occupation of northern Iraq in order to "defend" the Kurdish people. By year's end, U.S.-supplied warplanes piloted by our Turkish allies were killing the very same Kurds still fighting for their independence.

In the Soviet Union, a Stalinist coup was crushed by democratic thinking folks whose hopes are now disappearing behind the machinations of global corporations and their local cronies, with a few czarists thrown in for good measure. Boris Yeltsin's economic adviser recently called for an "immediate and harsh" transfer to a free-market economy, "no matter what the cost". Of course, it won't be him, or his friends, who suffer the consequences of this embrace of corporate profiteering. Just like here, the upper class demand for greater profits, "no matter what the cost", becomes a chokehold on the rest of us. As for democracy, hell, that word lost its meaning long ago. In the new world order, the only democracy there is, exists for the rich. Everyone else will only experience it if it serves corporate purposes. Or, if they struggle to achieve it.

Just like war and threats of war help carry out the designs of the new world order, so do the "free" trade agreements currently being negotiated between corporate and governmental heads. While politicians of almost every stripe (from D. Duke to the Democratic contenders) blame foreigners for the loss of jobs in this country, the transnational corporations move their plants to wherever the lowest costs can be paid and the highest profits can be made. The free trade agreements encourage this irresponsible behavior while, at the same time, divide up the globe into new markets. Markets which may last a decade or a year before the global marketplace demands another division. A divide and sell process which could, if some other nation or group of nations disagrees, lead to another war.

. . . the upper class demand for greater profits, "no matter what the cost", becomes a chokehold on the rest of us.

Recently I received a letter from a friend in Seattle who works with Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Anti-Imperialist. In the letter, he spoke of the movement against the war on Iraq and the aftermath. From his vantage point, he wondered how Gulf vets were dealing with their experience. Specifically, he talked about Gulf war resisters he had met and the alienation they felt after they got out of either the service or jail. Contrasting the experience of Vietnam era resisters with that of Gulf war vets, he wrote about the supportive antiwar community most Vietnam-era resisters came home to. This time around, such a community, if it did exist, was fragmented and disillusioned. In turn, many resisters and like-minded soldiers who didn't resist but would have if the war had not ended so quickly, are now feeling alone and unsupported. I see the experience of these vets as a metaphor for much of the antiwar/progressive community. At the moment a community is needed more than ever, we've crawled back into our daily lives and isolated ourselves from each other. This has created a belief that our struggle is hopeless. Which is what the new world rulers want. Which is why we have to struggle more than ever. No matter how small our numbers seem to be. David Duke and the overt fascists are just the ugliest heads of the old/new world hydra. Like Hercules of old, our task seems clear.

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Boycott: All French Products
Buycott: All New Zealand Products

Zachary D. Lyons

The boycott of French products, called by Worldwide Nuclear Freeze (WWNF) in 1986, continues as the French government holds steadfast in its defense of its nuclear weapons testing program in the South Pacific. Meanwhile, a *buycott*, where consumers are *encouraged* to by products, continues in effect by WWNF relating to the products of New Zealand, which has declared itself a nuclear-free zone.

WWNF's Richard Blake states that the boycott is "a direct result of the bombing of the Greenpeace ship, *Rainbow Warrior, in* Auckland, New Zealand, Harbor by French Secret Agents in 1986, and the subsequent, threatened and real economic pressure exerted on New Zealand by France in an effort to pressure New Zealand into the release of the agents" who were being held there.

The *Rainbow Warrior was in* Auckland at the time to lead a flotilla into the French nuclear testing site in Mururoa atoll, near Tahiti, in order to disrupt a planned nuclear test by the French. One crew member on the *Rainbow Warrior* was killed in the bombing, which sunk the ship in Auckland Harbor.

"The release [of the French agents by New Zealand to France] was brokered by the United Nations, and, admitted former New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange, agreed to [by New Zealand] only because of the threat of French economic pressure in the European Community. France has since violated the provisions of the agreement by removing the Secret Agents back to France instead of keeping them incarcerated in French Polynesia," reported Blake.

Additionally, charges Blake, nuclear testing by France in the South Pacific "has continued unabated. Further, France has been extremely irresponsible in the export of nuclear technology throughout the world and is not a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty."

Worldwide Nuclear Freeze is demanding that "the French government [make] reparations to New Zealand for all economic damage caused by French economic pressure, [and that France immediately cease] nuclear testing in the South Pacific and [make] reparations to residents of the South Pacific that will suffer damages now and in the future as a result of past and current French nuclear testing."

. . .the French government holds steadfast in its defense of its nuclear weapons . . . New Zealand. . . has declared itself a nuclear-free zone.. . .

WWNF is also encouraging, though not demanding that, France "sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty and cease the export of nuclear technology of all kinds to other, particularly non-nuclear nations, an-and adopt more stringent safeguards to prevent the illegal diversion of nuclear technology and materials .

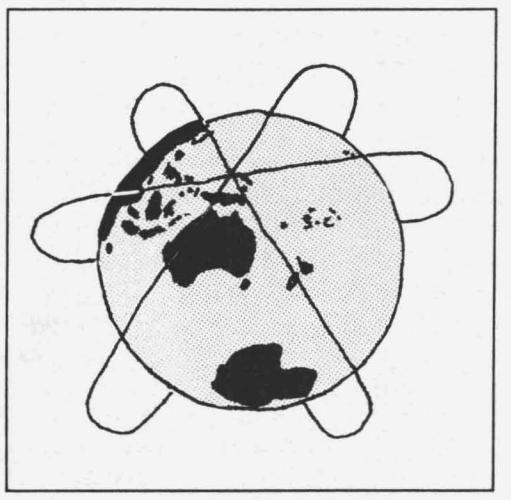
"There is nothing new in Mr. Blake's accusations and in the opposition that his and other organizations have expressed against these tests," wrote Laurent Aublin of the French Embassy in Washington, DC. "Time and again, the French authorities have explained the reasons of their policy in this regard and the steps taken to assure the safety of the tests, particularly vis à vis the protection of the environment: please find enclosed herewith a document presenting these explanations."

French Nuclear Tests In Mururoa: The Reasons Why?, the document to which Aublin referred, begins with a simple message in large bold print. "France...which was invaded and destroyed twice in the space of one generation...has the right to defend herself." It continues, "Her Choice: The Nuclear Deterrent, which is a guarantee of peace. It is a redoubtable force? Yes, indeed...but it is, above all, an effective instrument of peace which, for forty years, has rendered a new world war impossible. Her Strategy: The deterrence of the weak against the strong. France is not seeking to equal the capacity of destruction of the very great powers. It is enough for her to have the possibility of inflicting such damage on an aggressor that he will renounce taking the risk of an attack.

"...[France] is ready to reduce her weapons to the lowest possible level, but a level compatible with her security and with the capacity which other nuclear powers will maintain. Thus, in order to keep up the required technological level of its instruments of deterrence, France carries out the minimum of underground tests necessary."

While a significant amount of the French Embassy's materials deal with the safety of the tests, the issues raised by Worldwide Nuclear Freeze appear to deal specifically with an interest in ceasing further development and proliferation of nuclear arms.

"The Worldwide Nuclear Freeze was founded in 1984 as an outgrowth of the Freeze Movement, but more specifically because the goal of a bilateral Soviet-US Nuclear Freeze, while a laudable goal, did not address the issues of 'third force arsenals' that is the acknowledged nuclear arsenals of France, China and Britain, the 'clandestine' or suspected nuclear arsenals in places such as Israel, South Africa, Pakistan, India and others, or the issue of nuclear weapons proliferation to other nations (Iraq, Iran, Taiwan, North and South Korea and even the PLO), and the fact that any nation with a nuclear power plant (over 50 total) has the potential to eventually manufacture nuclear weapons," wrote WWNF's Blake in his statement to *The Boycott Monthly*, which we sent to the French government



for comment.

"Since it was also thought that the nuclear arms race cannot continue indefinitely without eventual disaster, the WWNF developed a four-pronged strategy to bring about a worldwide nuclear freeze as the first step towards universal nuclear disarmament. The four approaches are I) diplomatic, 2) political, 3) economic and 4) legal. The boycott of French products and 'buycott' of New Zealand products is an example of the economic approach," Blake explained.

WWNF is asking that consumers boycott all French companies products, including Renault cars, Pierre Cardin, Christian Dior and Yves St. Laurent clothing, Evian and Perrier mineral water, as well as a wide variety of cheeses, wines, beer and other food products. WWNF recommends that consumers replace many French products with New Zealand products in order to support that country's nuclear-free zone policy. For a more complete list of products from both countries, individuals may contact WWNF. For more information, or to express your concerns, you may contact Worldwide Nuclear Freeze the French government or the New Zealand government as follows:

Worldwide Nuclear Freeze
PO Box 361
Fairplay, CO 80440

President Francois Mitterand
c/o The French Embassy
4101 Reservoir Road, NW
Washington, DC 20007

Rt Hon Sir Wallace Rowling
Ambassador
New Zealand Embassy
37 Observatory Circle, NW
Washington, DC 20008

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Hanford Nuclear Reservation

Evelyn Montague

On Nov. 6, I attended and participated in the U.S. Dept. of Energy public meeting re: the Hanford Nuclear Reservation and the 5 year plan to

our friend, the atom...

clean it up. There were lots of questions and the officials tried to be forthright in their replies, but I was skeptical as I heard some excuses, buck-passing, evasions and "We are trying." The managers said the whole nuclear waste dump will be cleaned up by the year 2019.

I asked that they treat whistle blowers with straightforward investigations and not with denigration, threats on their lives, etc. I asked that they be completely honest and open with the public--no more secrecy, cover-ups, etc. When Dr. Lawrence took over Hanford , he promised exactly that, but when Gov. Gardner went on tour, they took down all the danger signs and put them back the next day. One executive replied that that had been a bad error and the person responsible had lost his position. "However, the Governor was never in any danger." Connie Chung visited, and the same thing happened with her.

Vitrification (turning waste into glass-like logs) is not yet perfected. It is to be started in 2000, and will be used only to contain the most long-lasting nuclear wastes. Were the vitrification logs inert? someone asked. "Not at all. They give off effluence all the time. We are working on it." The logs are highly radioactive and must be handled and stored very carefully. The materials in the logs will change over time, and we don't know what will happen. [So much for vitrification as the great solution!] Estimated cost is 1 to 2 billion dollars a year to clean it up. How do you know you can do it for that--who knows when clean is clean? Why is the Corps of Engineers the auditing agency for the clean-up budgets? Why are they more credible than any other agency? How come a few large corporations only have contracts? Why not use some small businesses?

Hanford started in 1943 and NO records were kept of what all those single-wall tanks contained until 1966. A year ago, Westinghouse and the Dept of Energy focused on tank safety. Still there are 149 single-wall tanks, of which 66 are "assumed leakers." Double walled tanks began being built in 1960s. "The first nine reactors now need to be uh, uh reclaimed." [decontaminated?] They had a hard time using reality terms. "We are now completely out of producing nuclear materials."[??]" I asked if they were now accepting any nuclear waste. Yes--old nuclear submarines now at Bremerton. The choice was to sink them in the ocean or send the nuclear parts to Hanford to be disposed of. There is still too much effluence. 72 gallons per minute goes into the air and ground water.

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Battelle stated in the 1970s a number of suggestions for where and how to dispose of the wastes. Why hasn't exploration of these possibilities been going on all these years?? Other questions and comments were made about too much paper shuffling. Get on with the job of cleaning it up!

The conference included technical questions by knowledgeable engineers in the audience, which were beyond my comprehension, but I felt it was an important opportunity for the airing of general public concerns as well.

Evelyn is an active member of the Rainbow Coalition and Works in Progress as well as other humanitarian organizations.

More and More Are Working for Less and Less

Teresa Jennings

This Christmas, as you make that purchase for your near and dear friends and relatives, take a moment to think about that person behind the counter that has just sold you your precious lovely—the retail tradesperson, saleswoman, salesman.

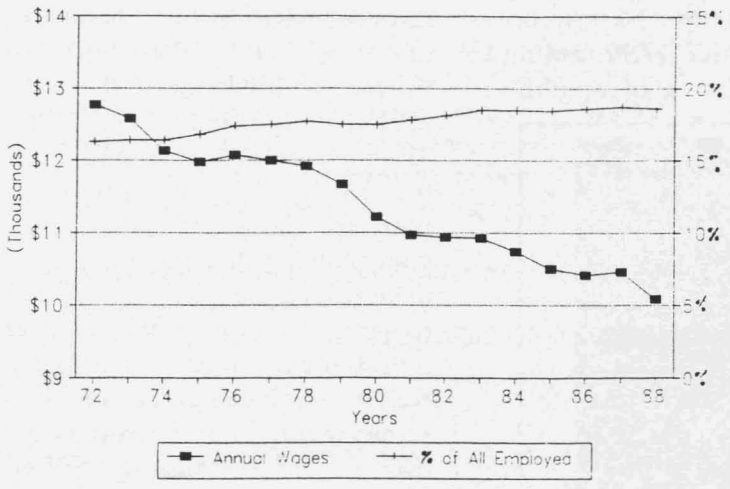
In comparison to all other sectors of employment, they have suffered the most over the past seventeen years. In 1982 constant dollars (that is, dollars adjusted for inflation), their real income has declined from $12,763 to $10,087 (Figure 1). While wages in other sectors show that at least things are now better than they were in 1972 (the earliest data available in the Office of Financial Management's (OFM) data book for 1989), those working in the retail trades are still waiting for a brighter day. Note: The last good year overall, for all sectors, was 1987.

To allow the erosion of their lifestyle and political power, is to advance a mean, harsh society.

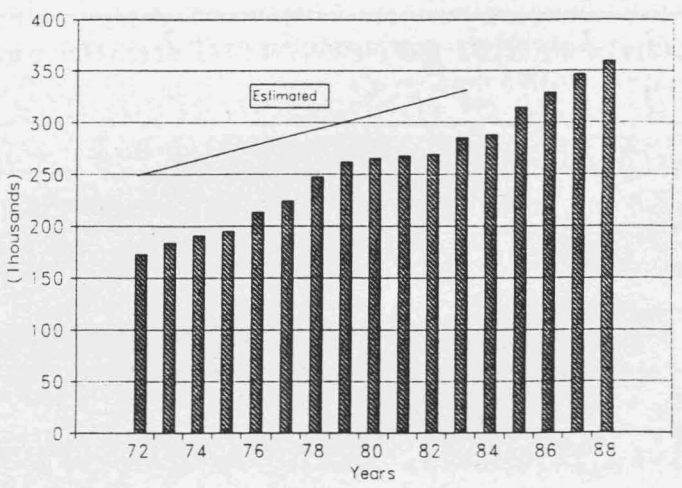
At the same time as their wages were declining, we find both the numbers and the proportion of the employed retail trade workforce rising (Figures 1 and 2). The estimated numbers show an increase of 237,000 to 359,700 in the total retail trade workforce, a change from 16.3% to 18.6% in the 17 year period. It does not take a genius to figure out that when more and more working people lose purchasing power, working for wages which do not and cannot support a family or even a single individual, that all of us are affected. To allow the erosion of their lifestyle and political power, is to advance a mean, harsh society.

This Christmas season, we must confront the reality that has been staring us in the face for a long time. A deepening recession is forthcoming. As banks and stores close and merge, those persons on the front-line in any retail business, those who deal with customers day in and day out are in particular jeopardy. When they say to you, "Have a Merry Christmas.", can we look them in the face and say, "I hope you have one, too."

Retail Trades: Wages and Employment



Retail Trades: Number Employed by Year



Taken from Office of Financial management Data Book

Love Connection

Matt Love

Orwellian Obfuscation

In a recent Seattle Times article on the National Council of Teachers of English's announcement of their annual Doublespeak Award winners, Times staff writer Sally Macdonald observed, "War is hell on words." In a list of examples of Orwellian obfuscation, many Gulf War euphemisms were cited; the war was an "armed situation", bombing attacks were "efforts" and war planes "force packages". Buildings were "hard targets". People were "soft" ones.

The bombs didn't kill. They "degraded," "neutralized," "attrited," "suppressed," "cleansed" or "serviced" targets.

The government of Saudi Arabia, unable to accept women soldiers from the U.S., called them "males with female features."

Other Enemies of the People mentioned as institutional doublespeakers include business, government, advertisement, advertising and technology. I believe the political left also would have contributed a number of works and phrases to the list, if we were influential enough for people to pay any attention to. We are happy to apply George Orwell's standards for honest language to the right and to the status quo, but we are less eager to apply them to ourselves. We embrace him as one of our own, but I wonder what he would have thought of us, and our language.

Samuel Hynes, in a NY Times book Review article on the new book "Orwell, the Authorized Biography", by Michael Shelden, wrote that "(Orwell) believed that humankind benefited from the unrestrained use of strong, vivid language, and he would have regarded the lexical pussyfooting of current American academic discourse as political cowardice."

Orwell described his leftist peers in England as "vegetarians with wilting beards, Bolshevik commissars (half gangster, half gramophone), Earnest ladies in sandals, shock-headed Marxists chewing polysyllables, escaped Quakers, birth-control fanatics and Labour party back-stair-scrawlers."

Ouch. Only the time and place have been changed to protect the insufferable. Since Orwell's time, a new, particularly pernicious stream has begun to feed into the ocean of leftist language. I'm referring to terminology from AA and other 12-step programs. Useful enough in their own domain, they fog political discourse. They are used largely in attempts to induce shame, and to ensure "co-operation" (in reality, senility). For example, the phrase "you're in denial" means "you won't climb into the box (labeled 'racist', 'sexist', or whatever) that I've constructed for you." "You're not taking responsibility for your actions" means "you're not doing what I think you should do."

As a public service, I'm putting forward a short list of favorite leftist doublespeak words and terms, and their English translations

What they say:	What they mean:
consensus-building	peer pressure
Rainbow Coalition	In Thurston County, it's neither
respect	contempt
diversity	conformity
oppression	subjugation of a people by the wrong overlords
dialogue	monologue
empowerment	encouragement for you to do what I want you to do
right winger	anybody who slightly deviates from the party line
sensitive	me
intolerant	you

Requiem for Roddenberry

I did not intend for my comments about Star Trek last issue to serve as an eulogy for Gene Roddenberry, the show's creator, who died the day Works in Progress went to press. Had he died before I wrote that piece, I certainly would have wanted to emphasize how much Gene Roddenberry had grown in the last 25 years as a person, and how the new series reflects that growth.

Roddenberry himself stressed this in an interview in the film magazine "Cinefantastique", conducted shortly before his death. Consider his comments on the Iraqi war: "I wish this war hadn't happened, that people didn't die. I am as much moved by Saddam's people dying as by ours. I am helped in that I don't consider this as a divided world. I am very fond of humans...war isn't just."

Another Defeat for Proportional Representation

Sadly, Cincinnati voters turned down the opportunity to return to Proportional Representation in their recent elections. Rob Richie, who worked hard on the Proportional Representation initiative in this area, also worked on that failed campaign. I have to wonder what his next move will be, and what strategies he will develop for future campaigns. Proportional Representation is certainly a great idea, and it must be a terrific frustration when the electorate won't go for it.

Cops

Jim Rabie, Ericka Ingram, and Dr. Richard Ofshe will appear on the Sally Jesse Raphael show on Channel 7, Monday, December 2nd at 3:00 pm, to discuss the Ingram abuse case. The program has already been taped, and from what sketchy details I've heard about it, it appears that it will be in the dishonorable tradition of tabloid TV, an extension of the Olympian's highly selective reportage on the subject. A number of hysterical charges are made before a sympathetic audience, with little attention given to what facts have been established in this surreal and disturbing case. With this sort of attention, can the television movie of the week be far behind?

Anyway, watch Raphael, then read Chris Bader's series in the Cooper Point Journal to get (as Paul Harvey would say) "the rest of the story." Unfortunately, Rapheal has a slightly larger audience. As Mark Twain once sagely observed, "a lie travels half way around the world before the truth gets it's pants on."

The Parable of the Crows

While on break, a co-worker in my office was looking out the window watching the crows on the plaza below. As they flew sorties, dropping black walnuts on the cement in their attempts to get at the food inside, my co-worker Bob gave us a running commentary on their progress.

"That one crow is really stupid. He keeps flying up four or five feet and dropping the walnut over and over again. It's not high enough. He'll never crack it." A pause, and then, "some of them are really good at this. The ones that aren't keep trying to steal from the ones that are."

Fiction

Autumn Woman

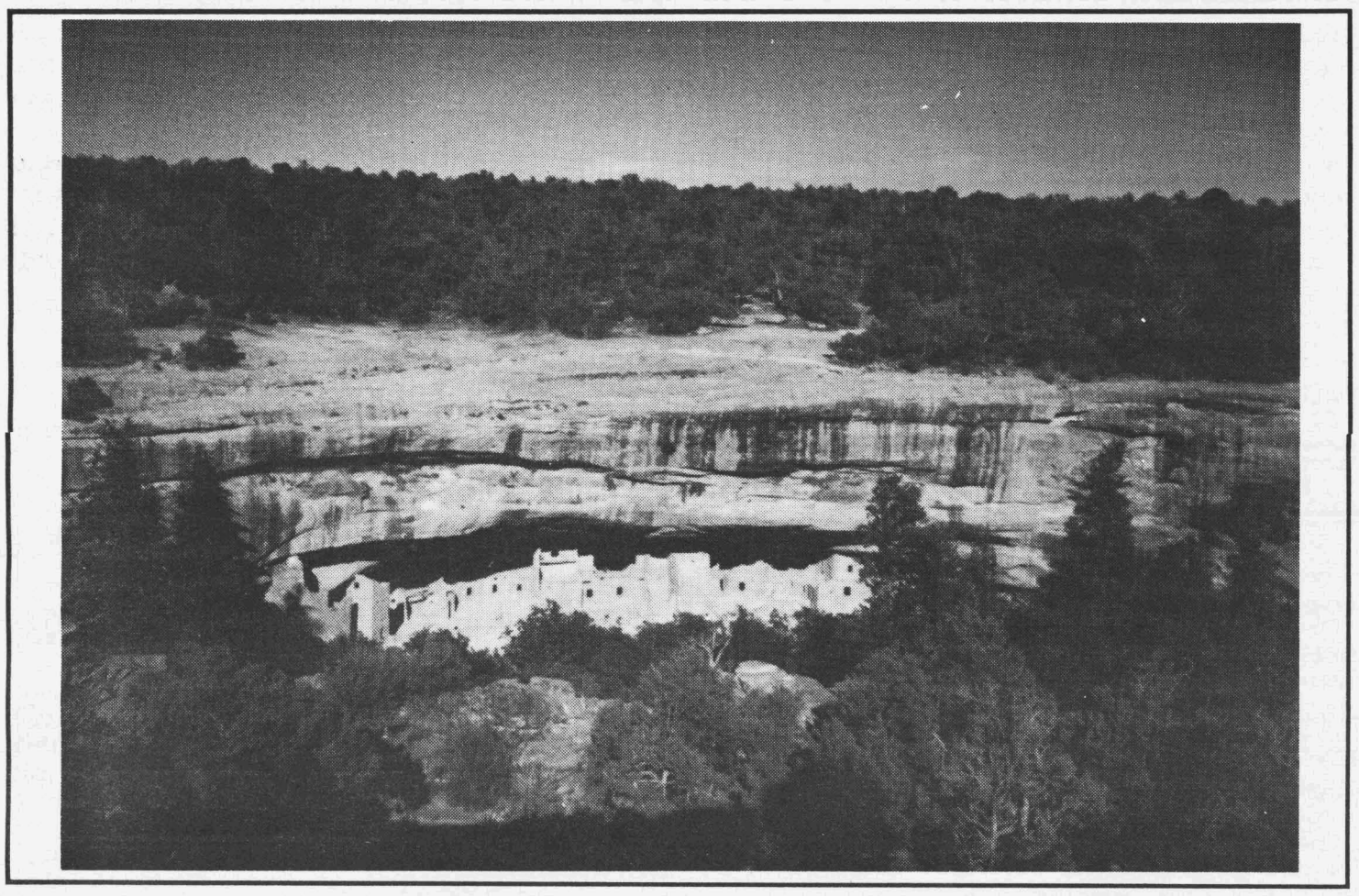
Cindy Franklin

Autumn Woman and I walk the same path. My name is Walking Bear Woman and I lie with pinon and juniper on blood red sand beside the Colorado river. I don't have ancestors here, I am alone and have been for nearly a century. My growth takes place high on the plateau and comes from feeling those that have traveled these trails before me. They have long since vanished, driven to tiny pieces of land new laws call reservations.

Here I am as free as a mustang, and as wild. I feel safe here in the absence of others. I walk the fence line of a rancher and find myself face to face with a seven point buck swiftly escaping an unreal man-made boundary. He and I have a lot in common, we look deep into each others eyes and are one. A few minutes later I come out of this dream state and realize there's a deep gnawing in my stomach. I had forgotten that I was carrying a 30-ot-6 and needed sustenance.

I feel spirits all around me. I climb to higher ground and head toward the setting sun. Rounding the bend I hear the beaver splashing in ponds and know that the ancient one is there, laughing. I've stolen glances at him in the light of the moon and he is rainbow colored and longer than my arm. I can only imagine how many migrations of birds he must have seen. He appears very old and wise and I find myself wondering when I will be the same. The horizon moves closer now as night descends on mountains east of Rock Creek inlet.

I lay myself down near a slowly burning fire and doze comfortably. In the night I awaken to a scorpion crawling across the palm of my hand and a smile involuntarily spreads across my face. The desert is our home. I am glad I possess understanding that allows me not to be afraid. In the distance the sun is rising gently between crimson clouds and it smells like rain.



Arising late, I pack up and head south towards the Grand Canyon. First I must enter Navajo Canyon and visit the remains of the Anasazi dwellings of my ancestors which contain a fresh water spring. I drink deeply off water which has been flowing here since time began. I look skyward as my friend Raven flies overhead. That is when I notice the sky's color has changed to a deep crystal blue. I feel a restriction in my chest as I squeeze through the many layered narrows of Antelope Canyon. I am nearing Cataract Canyon which holds the raft that will carry me downstream, closer to renewal. When I think of white water my heart quickens as my mind remembers last spring when the muddy river pulled me down and knocked me onto her jagged rocks before shooting me in the air and sucking me under again. I don't know how long I was at the mercy of her strength. When I awoke, I was lying on a sandbar the color of clay.

As I strained to see the top I knew there was no escape and the roar of Satins' Gutt rang louder than ever in my ears.

This will be the first trip on my raft since last spring and I have to gather my courage to face this river woman again.

As I catch a current my raft carries us gracefully into mid-channel of the river. Her muddy scent is rough against my nose and I know how much I have missed her. Rounding a bend I hear the first set of rapids and their music catches me off guard, as it has each time I have visited here.

I sense danger but my desires drive me on. Soon Skull rapid is in sight and I paddle hard to the west to keep the raft away from the knife sharp rocks looming dark against the skyline in the distance. There is a hollow suddenly before me as the roar of the river becomes almost deafening around me. Contained within the hollow is a small channel that can be traveled safely and the mood of the river determines the path that will be chosen. Trying to affect fate I paddle until my arms ache and still I don't stop. In front of me now is the moment of truth, and the raft flows easily by with its passenger still intact.

As I struggle to get my heart out of my throat and force air into my lungs I see the most difficult rapid in all of North America, Satins' Gutt. When I was a girl I heard stories of many natives dying at the hand of these rocks and the waterfall in between. I now thought to reconsider the value of my life. I looked above me and saw cliffs that ran toward the sky. As I strained to see the top I knew there was no escape and the roar of Satins' Gutt rang louder than ever in my ears.

Heading into what may be my last moment on earth visions of days spent bathing in the waterfall of Oh-be-joyful Valley with her purple and blue mountains in the background flooded my mind. Trails up to timberline and wildlife that had kept my spirit company for these past three years; snowshoeing through great drifts of snow and chopping holes in ice to gather fish, meeting black bear within the confines of my tipi, the first avalanche I ever saw that was so powerful it caused me to sit down in my tracks as I watched twenty trees disappear beneath...

The roar within my ears seemed to be dimming and I suddenly became aware that Satins' Gutt was behind me. The strength of the water in front of me was lessening and a little further south it looked calm. A few miles now and I would see Strong Bull and the others. Aaaahh, the strength of human spirit. I feel that quickening in my chest again because I have so much to share.

Walking Bear Woman spent fifteen years in Colorado and in the Canyonlands country of the Utah desert. She now walks among you and is interested in the cultures of people and some say that she is an anthropologist at heart. Her first love is writing though, and it is quite possible that she will make her living in that capacity some day.

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Saturday, January 18, 8 pm

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Update on El Salvador

Paul Slusher

For eleven years the war in El Salvador has raged on. As Reagan and Bush have wholeheartedly supported their political allies, the Cristiani government and Salvadoran military, the FMLN has been attempting to force negotiations. Today, because of the ever-increasing support the FMLN (the people's military front) receives, the Salvadoran military is being forced to talk peace.

The Salvadoran military, which survives solely off U.S. military aid ($85 million annually), has been widely recognized as the perpetrator of human rights violations by Amnesty International, the OAS (Organization of American States), and countless other human rights and peace-seeking organizations.

On June 7, 1991, the OAS released the annual report of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission. According to the report, "The activities of the death squadrons and the security forces lead to serious human rights violations and the authorities of the Salvadoran judicial system seem to lack either the will or the means to stop such conduct."

January 16, nine days later, as the first bombs were being dropped on Iraq, George Bush authorized the restoration of military aid to the Salvadoran military, to the tune of $42.5 million, which had been frozen by Congress the year before.

And where does such money go to? One example that should be recalled is that of December 11, 1981, when nearly 400 people were massacred in the small Salvadoran town of Mozote. Every single man, woman and child, except one, was either shot, clubbed or stabbed to death. On the same day, in the nearby village of La Joya, another 139 were killed in a similar fashion. Within a three day period, nearly 800 people were slaughtered in the mountainous regions of El Salvador.

According to the one survivor of the Mozote incident, the military claimed that these villages were supporting the FMLN.

Here in the U.S., Ronald Reagan was busy telling the country that the incident never occurred, and that it was simply a ploy by the FMLN to spread disinformation. As it turned out, it was Ronnie himself spreading the disinformation.

The Roman Catholic Church recently released a report that accused the Atlacatl Battalion, a U.S. trained military unit, of being the murderers during those three days.

However, report or no report, the facts are there. Death squad activity and military attacks on the FMLN, labor leaders, political dissidents, peasant collectives, religious organizations and any other attempts of economic and/or political freedom in El Salvador are frequent and widespread.

The highly publicized peace talks between the FMLN and the Salvadoran government have created little change in the atmosphere. The talks, which began back in April of 1990 have been little more than a series of strategically-created posture changes on the part of the U.S. backed government of El Salvador.

On the other hand the FMLN has been rather consistent in it's demands. First of all, the military must be put under civilian authority. Secondly, all human rights violators and death squads must be punished and/or forced to leave the country. Thirdly, all forced military recruitment must stop.

. . .as the first bombs were being dropped on Iraq, George Bush authorized the restoration of military aid to the Salvadoran military, to the tune of $42.5 million. . .

And lastly, and far more all-encompassing, is the issue of a new Constitution.

However, the Cristiani government has been very "two-faced" at best during the year and a half of negotiations.

In June of 1990 it appeared that some progress had been made on the issue of civilian control of the military. Yet, one month later, the government position hardened, and no accord was reached. Secondly, during the June talks, the government claimed that death squads do not even exist. Furthermore, the Salvadoran government proposed that any reforms that would take place in regard to the military will be within the current military structure.

They denied that torture and mass killings are used by the military, and furthered their claim that in fact all these incidents have been done by the FMLN.

Such accusations on the part of the Salvadoran government are about as credible as Reagan telling us that 90% of all air pollution is caused by trees, or that Bush is the Education and Environmental President. However, the New York Times still ran the accusations as if they were a serious issue to consider. So much for 'objective' media.

Referring back to the restoration of aid on January 16, 1991, one should note that this created a drastic reversal in the stance of the Cristiani Government. Tom Gibb of the San Francisco Chronicle wrote on February 21 1991: "With the rebels (FMLN) apparently accepting secret U.N. sponsored ceasefire proposals, the government and their U.S. backers suddenly find themselves in the awkward position of turning down a truce they have been pushing to obtain for the past nine months."

The United States, recently criticized by China for being hypocritical on human rights, finds itself in a difficult position internationally. El Salvador has become a political liability. So Bush, quite strategically, has begun to call for a "rapidization" of the peace talks.

However, the crucial issue of freedom in El Salvador poses, in itself, a serious threat to the financial leaders of El Salvador. A country war-torn and desperately poor, the logical voting pattern of such a country, if it gets the chance at **real** democracy, will move to change many of the destructive elements of its capitalist system. For this reason the talks expose the real issue behind El Salvador, that of economic equality and growth capabilities in Central America.

As it stands now, Bush wants to see internal development and socio-economic change in Central America as bad as he would want his arm chopped off.

Land-price Inflation

Marvin Saillard

Poverty is the price we pay for privilege. Webster defines privilege as "a peculiar advantage," and defines privileged as "not subject to the usual rules." The usual rule being that you cannot get something for nothing.

Poverty is the price we pay in our society for allowing landowners to charge rent-of-land for something they did not produce or make valuable. The presence and activity of all the people in the community make land valuable because people cannot live without access to land. The people in the community further enhance the value of the land by financing the public services through their tax dollars. Because his land has a publicly-created value, the landowner can charge other people rent-of-land for permission to use his land. The landowner has a claim on production without producing anything himself.

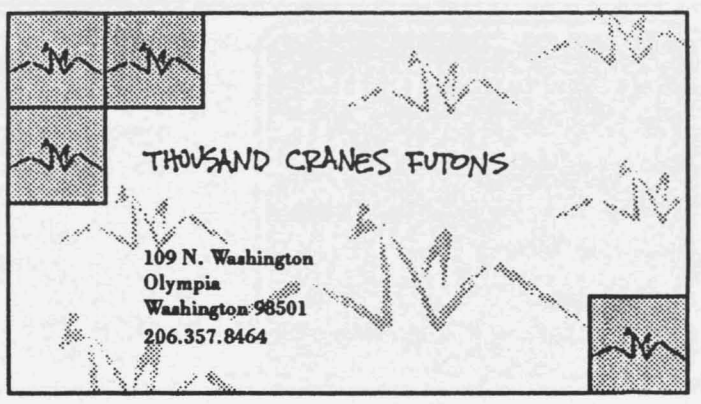
The landowner claims that he purchased this special privilege. But you cannot purchase a land-value from someone who did not make the land valuable. What you purchase when you buy land is the privilege of collecting an unearned income or an unearned profit from the ability to use the land without paying rent-of-land, or the ability to charge others rent-of-land for permission to use the land which the landowner did not make, and which he did not make valuable.

The privilege of having a claim upon production without producing anything means that someone else must produce without being able to claim as much as they produced. That is why we must have labor unions to try to claim back some of the production that landowners claimed through the exercise of their **privilege.** If we were to eliminate the taxes on earned incomes which subsidize the landowners unearned income by providing the public services which help to make the land more valuable, and were to collect the publicly-created value of land as public revenue, the laborer would not need labor unions to help them claim their share of the production.

If all landowners had to pay the market rental-value of the land as public revenue, there could be no land speculation and no artificial scarcity of good locations and no land-price inflation. Land-price inflation gives land-sellers a large unearned profit, while making homes unaffordable to wage earners. There would no longer be a **privilege** that the landowner did not have to pay for, and there would no longer have to be the **under-privilege** that we call poverty.

Land-price inflation gives land-sellers a large unearned profit, while making homes unaffordable to wage earners.

Marvin Saillard is a member of the Washington State Georgist Association, a chapter of Common Ground - USA, Hamlet Hilpert, President, 995 State Hwy 507, Centralia, WA 98521, 206--736-3639. Our purpose is to abolish poverty by reforming our tax system to collect the rental-value of land as public revenue, and by ridding our economy of the regressive taxes on labor and capital.



The Homeless: Rights of Winter

Pat Tassoni

Well it's winter again. I don't say that to spite the calendar, according to which we still have some time left in fall. But rather I say it because it is true. Today was the first day I had to put on my winter coat, but still that did not make it winter. The coat in its simplicity only made me realize the cold, something else made me feel it again this year as in past years.

I work downtown at night, the coldest time. Let me tell you about wintertime downtown Olympia. During the summer months and into the fall, the homeless, the derelicts and the victims of circumstance seem to blend in with the street scene. In the winter, it is much easier to pick them out. They're the ones carrying a blanket and wearing dirty clothes in which they sleep to provide extra insulation against the cold. They have a hungry look in their eyes as they anxiously search the streets in hopes of finding something to benefit from and fearing they'll miss that same something. They look for things to get them from day to day such as some spare change, a hand-out, and as I've come to know, a smile and a little respect.

The first day of winter for me is when a desperate and pained person knocks on the window of my workplace looking for assistance. Normally I look forward to being distracted from my job of cleaning up the restaurant. I do not confuse this "boldness" of theirs as a demand as human beings or as Americans for their right for shelter and safety. It is rather an act of desperation. Over the years I have become, not wholly by my wishes, immersed in the downtown scene. Let me introduce you to a few of my downtown friends.

My first encounter happened a couple of years back as I was going to work at 10 pm. Outside on the sidewalk was a man, dressed in jeans and a t-shirt without shoes. I thought that was peculiar, but what made me really realize something was wrong was that he was holding on to a trashcan for stability as he convulsively shook from the cold. It was cold, real cold. Asking the stupid question of "are you okay?", he responded in a bark, "I'm fucking cold man!" I invited him into work where I told him he could sit and get warm and drink coffee for the night. His name was Brad.

It turns out Brad was just released from prison and was travelling by bus to south Washington. He had a fourteen hour lay-over in Olympia during the night. He had money but everything was closed. The prison gave him the clothes he had on plus shoes which gave him blisters, so he threw them out. Coming from prison, not the kind of environment which cultivates trust, Brad felt like he was alone in the world, cast out into the cold, but over the hours he spent with me talking, trying to figure out something to do and a place to go, he learned to trust a little. Customers occasionally leave behind clothing, and I was able to supply Brad with a shirt, a light coat, and a hat. It was with a distinct sense of self-worth that Brad put on his new hat. It was very moving and I cry everytime I recall it. I would see him a few years later.

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The next year it was Erik, a fourteen-year-old boy who ushered in winter. He knocked on the window and asked for a glass of water, a way of asking for assistance as I've come to realize. I said sure and added he could sit in the warmth too, if he liked. He did. He asked if my workplace was hiring at all so that he could earn some food or something. I said no. He said he was hungry. I said I know. What really sucks about my job and the place where I work is that when it is open, it is a restaurant, but when it is closed, there is no food, only, on occasion, left-over muffins or pizza. So Erik was hungry in a restaurant without food.

Erik "lived" in Olympia and dropped by regularly to hang-out and drink pop. One cold winter night, when there was snow on the ground, he brought in four of his friends, also without a home. I told them I was not going to put them out and if worse came to worse, we'd all be spending the night in the restaurant. But with some phone calls, we found shelter for them for the night.

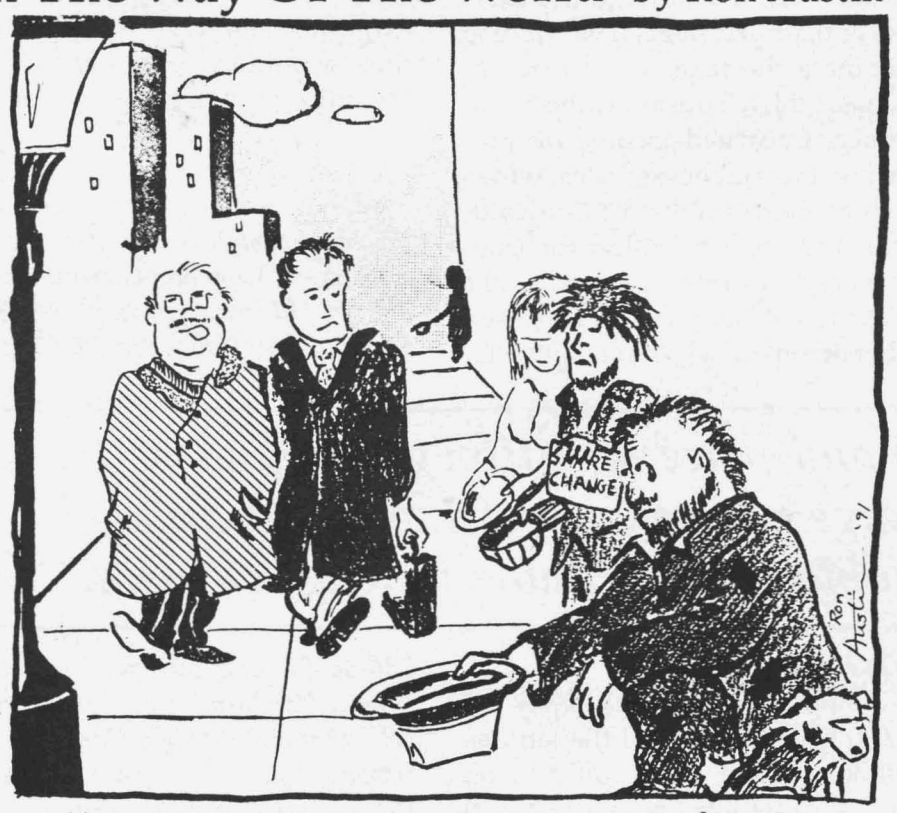
Walking home that night, I found a pigeon that had gotten into some kerosene or something so that its feathers were all matted together. Somebody put it in a box and left it outside. After what I had just been through I couldn't just leave it to die in the cold, so I took it home. It became a symbol for me as I fed it, cleaned it and took care of it. The first two days, it didn't move because it was so close to death. But then it recovered and made steady progress for two months at which time it was healthy enough to fly again. After it had gone, I planted the birdseed I had left, and I still enjoy looking at the sunflowers in the summer and eating their seeds in the fall and winter. They are the sweetest I've ever had.

This year Shirley announced the onset of winter, the same day I ominously put on my winter coat. Shirley was a black woman, a hard thing to be in Olympia, but doubly hard without a home to boot. She was passing through Olympia, she spends her time moving between Seattle and Olympia. She asked for work so she could earn money for a hotel room. I said sorry. We then called the local shelters, she had the numbers herself, and found them to be full. She didn't know what to do as she stared out the windows into the night that she had to go back out into. I offered her the restaurant couch for the night. She refused for reasons of which I was uncertain. Then it came out that she felt safer sleeping out in the open, cold streets than in a closed place with a stranger. I said I understood. We hugged in parting and I couldn't help but think how much the situation sucked. She was looking for help and I was offering but still nothing came of it. And the only one to really suffer from it is her. Shirley was in a no-win situation and it sucked.

Harry is the most on-going contact I have. He compulsively walks the streets of Olympia stroking his beard. When there is food left over at work, I "hire" Harry. He's swept the sidewalk, picked up trash, and cleaned windows. He does a great job and is enthusiastic for the opportunity to prove himself worthy. Lately he and I have been having, I can't say conversations, but talks as we realize how we need each other. Our association is turning away from charity to mutualism as we realize that I'm not so much helping him as I'm embracing my own humanity through him. I think we all want to help each other. Maybe Harry's just taking advantage of me and exploiting my humanity. If he is, so what; if he isn't and I treat him as if he were, he would be the only one to really lose. I can't lose because my life is not on the line. I have enough to eat and a warm place to sleep. If I were to ignore him like others in society, he would maybe die and I can't help but think what a waste of human potential that would be. Then we would all lose with the loss of him.

I saw Brad two years after the night we first met. He was happy and healthy. It was like seeing a lost friend. I was with another friend of mine and in answer to his question of "who was that?' after Brad had left, I replied "he was a guy who saved my life a while back." He *did* too. Through helping him, I realized although suffering and misery abound, I can make a difference; I can ease the pain a little and smile too. If nothing else, I can give simple human respect, which means alot to those who don't get enough. And it doesn't cost anything.

In The Way Of The World by Ron Austin



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